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TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY AND ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH LAW.

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Coroners' Rolls





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## SELECT CASES FROM THE CORONERS' ROLLS A.D. 1265—1413

WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE  
HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF CORONER

EDITED  
FOR THE SELDEN SOCIETY  
BY  
CHARLES GROSS, PH.D.  
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LONDON vol 9  
BERNARD QUARITCH, 15 PICCADILLY  
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## PREFACE.

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THIS volume contains the substance of the earliest coroners' rolls and of several later coroners' rolls. A selection of cases only has been made from most of the later rolls. The square brackets in the translation include brief abstracts of matter which it was deemed expedient to omit in the Latin text. The aim of the Editor has been to print cases that would best illustrate the functions of the coroner and the coroner's jury. Incidentally this volume also throws much light upon the activity of the neighbouring townships and upon the work of the county courts. Some of the rolls are worded as though they were regular minutes of the criminal proceedings in those courts.

My best thanks are due to Miss MARY TRICE MARTIN for transcribing many of the rolls; to Mr. G. J. TURNER for collating the text with the originals; to Mr. B. FOSSETT LOCK, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, for considerable assistance of various kinds; to Dr. NORMAN MOORE for suggestions in medical matters; and, notably, to Professor F. W. MATTLAND, whose generous aid has been of inestimable value.

C. G.





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The following contractions are used in the footnotes of the Introduction :—

*Abbrev. Placit.* Abbreviatio Placitorum. Record Commission, 1811.

*Bracton.* Bracton de Legibus, edition of the Rolls Series, 1878–83.

*Britton.* Edited by F. M. Nichols, 1865.

*Northumb. Rolls.* Three Early Assize Rolls of Northumberland. Surtees Society, 1891.

*Note Book.* Bracton's Note Book. Edited by F. W. Maitland, 1887.

*Pl. of Gl.* Pleas of the Crown for the County of Gloucester. Edited by F. W. Maitland, 1884.

*Plac. quo War.* Placita de quo Warranto. Record Commission, 1818.

*Rolls.* Coroners' Rolls in the Public Record Office.

*Rot. Chart.* Charter Rolls. Record Commission, 1837.

*Rot. Claus.* Close Rolls. Record Commission, 1833–44.

*Rot. Hund.* Rotuli Hundredorum. Record Commission, 1812–1818.

*Salt Soc.* Historical Collections of Staffordshire. William Salt Archæological Society.

*Sel. Charters.* Select Charters. Edited by W. Stubbs. 3rd ed. 1876.

*Sel. Pleas.* Select Pleas of the Crown. Selden Society, 1888.

*Statutes.* Statutes of the Realm. Record Commission, 1810–28.

*Year Books.* The Year Books published in the Rolls Series.

# INTRODUCTION.

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- I. The Coroners' Rolls.
- II. Origin of the Office of Coroner.
- III. Election, Qualifications, and Tenure of Office.
- IV. Functions of the Coroner.
- V. The Coroner's Jury and the Petty Jury.
- VI. The Principle of Representation.
- VII. Modern History of the Coroner.

## NOTES :—

- A. The Coroners of Colchester.
- B. The Neighbouring Townships.
- C. The County Court. Appeals and Presentments.
- D. Englishry.

## I. The Coroners' Rolls.

1. The coroners' rolls have been preserved in the Public Record Office among the Assize Rolls of the Queen's Bench (Crown Side). There are 260 rolls, arranged according to counties, containing in all about 2,140 membranes.<sup>1</sup> The following table shows their chronological distribution.

49-56 Henry III.: Rolls 1, 2, 46. (Bedfordshire.)

Edward I.: Rolls 3-5, 106, 107, 128, 208, 254-6.

Edward II.: Rolls 6, 47, 94<sup>a</sup>, 106-10.

Henry IV. and Henry V.: Rolls 60-63, 101, 145, 147-51, 162, 166-70, 253.

4 Henry VI.: Roll 158.

Edward III. and Richard II.: those not mentioned above, and Rolls 47, 60, 61, 145, 147, 162, 166.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A printed list of these rolls will be found in 'Lists and Indexes' (Public Record Office), No. IV., Rolls Series, 1894, pp. 197-203. Many of the dates and some of the names of counties assigned to the rolls in this list are erroneous; for example, Roll 20 is of Norfolk, not Cambridgeshire;

Roll 46, Bedfordshire, not Huntingdonshire; Roll 172, Staffordshire, not Suffolk; Rolls 35-36 are of Essex as well as Gloucestershire; Roll 94<sup>a</sup> is of the time of Edward II., not Edward III.; Rolls 209-15, Edward III., not Edward I.

<sup>2</sup> In this volume extracts are printed

They are not  
the originals

2. These records are not the original 'rotuli coronatorum,' but merely transcripts and in some cases abstracts of the originals. The following reasons may be advanced in support of this view. (1) In many years no inquests or only one or two inquests are recorded, whereas it is quite certain that many cases usually came before the coroner in the course of each year. For some years the transcripts seem to be very full, for others very meagre or entirely wanting.<sup>1</sup> (2) On some membranes the entries are arranged in a haphazard way without regard to chronological sequence. (3) Each coroner had his own record,<sup>2</sup> but in this series of rolls the cases coming before different coroners are often intermingled. (4) There are mistakes in dates and in the names of places which indicate hasty or careless transcription. (5) Certain statements in some of the rolls regarding deficiencies of the coroner<sup>3</sup> and certain allusions to the king's justices in some of the headings<sup>4</sup> afford more positive evidence of transcription.

Their original  
use

3. Though mere abstracts and transcripts, these records are doubtless contemporary or almost contemporary with the originals. They contain little or no direct testimony regarding their origin and object. We know that the coroners' rolls were laid before the royal justices at the eyre,<sup>5</sup> and our rolls seem to be abstracts made by order of the king's justices for the use of the crown. The attention paid to the property of felons in the body of the cases and in the marginal notes indicates that the rolls were made especially for the use of the royal treasury. Britton (i. 133) says that at the eyre estreats of amercements and of the fines and chattels of felons were made and sent to the exchequer.<sup>6</sup> Some of the so-called 'coroners' rolls' are simply rolls of estreats; for example, Roll 47, 'Extractae cattallorum felonum,' and Roll 172, 'Inquisitio de bonis utlagatorum.'<sup>7</sup>

## II. Origin of the Office of Coroner.<sup>8</sup>

Early history  
of the office  
neglected

1. The early history of the office of coroner has never been satisfactorily investigated. The best text-books of legal and constitutional

from Rolls 1-4, 12, 17, 20, 35, 42, 45, 46, 95, 106, 107, 109-11, 118, 128, 132, 136, 147, 163, 166, 168, 173, 183, 201, 204-6, 213, 215, 218, 219, 223, 243, 246, 249, 254. My chronological table may contain some errors, for it is based in part upon the printed list mentioned in the preceding note.

<sup>1</sup> Most of the membranes of Rolls 209-10 contain only the names of the persons indicted before the coroner and the reason for the indictment.

<sup>2</sup> Bracton, ii. 430; cf. Salt Soc. iv. 215.

<sup>3</sup> P. 100.

<sup>4</sup> Roll 79: 'Rotulus coronatorum libertatis de Grymesby . . . in sessionibus suis apud Lincoln' per justiciarios suos [*i.e.* regis] de banco videlicet dominos Johannem Cavendiche et Thomam de Ingelby et alios' (49 Edw. III.). Cf. p. 112.

<sup>5</sup> Below, iv. 7.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. below, pp. 52-55, 102. <sup>7</sup> Cf. p. 111.

<sup>8</sup> The substance of parts ii.-vi. of this Introduction was first printed in 1892, in

history begin the consideration of this subject with brief allusions to the origin of the coroner in 1194, and to the curtailment of his functions by *Magna Carta*, and then give various details taken from Bracton, Britton, Fleta, and the Statute of 4 Edward I.<sup>1</sup> But these four sources leave many questions unanswered concerning this institution in the second half of the thirteenth century, and no attempt has been made to trace its history before Bracton's time, or carefully to consider its origin. The subject is worth studying, not merely because these gaps ought to be filled up, but also because its investigation may throw some new light upon the early history of trial by jury and of parliamentary representation.

2. The origin of the coroner's office is usually ascribed to the articles of the eyre of 1194.<sup>2</sup> But there is evidence which seems to show that coroners both of boroughs and of counties existed before this date. In the thirteenth or fourteenth century the citizens of Norwich claimed that they had appointed such officers since the reign of Stephen; but a hostile contemporary chronicler denies this, and asserts that Norwich did not have this privilege 'for a hundred years and more after the Norman Conquest.'<sup>3</sup> Henry I. granted to the citizens of London 'justitiarium quemcumque vel qualem voluerint de seipsis, ad custodiendum placita coronae meae et eadem placitandum.'<sup>4</sup> Henry II., in 1181, allowed the burgesses of Coventry to elect their own 'justitarius,' but the charter does not mention crown pleas.<sup>5</sup> In 1189 the burgesses of Colchester received a grant from Richard I. (afterwards confirmed by Henry III.). 'quod ipsi ponant de seipsis ballivos quoscumque voluerint, et justit[arios] ad servandum placita coronae nostrae et ad placitandum eadem placita infra burgum suum.'<sup>6</sup> In the reign of Henry III., the burgesses of Colchester claimed the right to appoint coroners and to make inquests in cases of death, by concession of Richard I.<sup>7</sup>; there can be little doubt that this reference is to the grant of 1189. That the charters which London and Colchester received from Henry I. and Richard I. refer to coroners is

Political Science Quarterly, vol. vii.; the essay has been carefully revised and much enlarged in the present volume.

<sup>1</sup> As to this so-called statute, see below, iv. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Sel. Charters, 260: 'Praeterea in quolibet comitatu eligantur tres milites et unus clericus custodes placitorum coronae.' Stubbs, Maitland, Gneist, Bigelow, Stephen, Palgrave, and Reeves all regard this as the origin of the office.

<sup>3</sup> Monasticon Anglicanum, iv. 14. The

narration is taken from the register of Binham. The same claim of the citizens is entered in the civic records of Norwich: Archaeological Journal, vol. 46, p. 305.

<sup>4</sup> Rymer, Foedera, i. 11; Sel. Charters, 108. In Stephen's reign Gervase de Cornhill and Geoffrey de Mandeville held this office: Round, Geoffrey de Mandeville, 453.

<sup>5</sup> Dugdale, Warwickshire, 137; Mcrewether and Stephens, Boroughs, 338.

<sup>6</sup> Madox, Firma Burgi, 28.

<sup>7</sup> See below, Note A.



evident from a comparison of these documents with chapter 20 of the articles of the eyre of 1194, with chapter 24 of *Magna Caria* (1215), and especially with the grants of municipal coroners in the reign of John. In John's charters the burges-es are allowed to elect two reeves ('praepositi'), and also four discreet men of the town 'ad custodiendum placita coronae et alia quae ad nos et coronam nostram pertinent in eadem civitate, et ad videndum quod praepositi illius civitatis juste et legitime tractent tam pauperes quam divites.'<sup>1</sup>

A contrary  
view  
discussed

3. Professor Maitland has raised certain objections to my interpretation of the passages in the charters of London and Colchester.<sup>2</sup> His opinion on this or any kindred subject is certainly worthy of careful consideration. 'The duty of a coroner in after times,' he says, 'is *custodire placita coronae*, and, no doubt, *servare* is equivalent to *custodire*. But, then, in these cases, the same person is both to keep and to hold the pleas of the crown. . . . It seems necessary to insist that from 1194 onwards we have in the coroner an officer who, while he is bound *custodire placita coronae*, is not entitled, or, at all events, not empowered by the terms of his appointment, *tenere* (or *placitare*) *placita coronae*. Is not this the very essence of the matter, that in the coroners we have persons whose duty it is to "keep" pleas, which other persons are to "hold"?' What Professor Maitland here states regarding the functions of the coroner is certainly true after the time of King John. But is it true of the twelfth century? The Great Charter of 1215 (ch. 24) enacts that 'nullus vicecomes, constabularius vel coronatores vel alii balivi nostri *teneant* placita coronae meae.' Does not this imply that before 1215 coroners not merely 'kept' but also 'held' pleas? Moreover, in dealing later on with the functions of the coroner, we shall see that traces of these higher judicial duties adhered to the office in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.<sup>3</sup> The burgesses of Colchester in the reign of Henry III. were probably right in identifying their coroners with the 'justices' whom they were allowed to have by Richard I.'s charter.

Coroners  
before 1194  
in counties

4. Mr. Round has recently called attention to the existence of early justices of counties similar to those of boroughs. In Henry I.'s

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Chart. 46 (bis), 56, 57, 65, 142. In some of the Cinque Ports the coroner, during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, seems to have been called a judge. See Lyon, Dover, i. 303. That the 'custodes' of John's charters were coroners cannot be doubted. See Gross, Gild Merchant, ii. 116, 117. Throughout the thirteenth century the names 'custodes placi-

torum coronae' and 'coronatores' continued to be used interchangeably: Sel. Pleas, 98, etc.; Bracton, ii. 504; Abbrev. Plac. 266, 279, 326. The term 'coronarii' also was employed in the reign of John: Sel. Pleas, 68-70; Spelman, Gloss. s.v. 'Furca'; Madox, Exchequer, i. 336; Rot. Chart. 129.

<sup>2</sup> English Historical Review, viii. 758-60.

<sup>3</sup> Below, iv. 4.

reign Ralph Passelewe was 'justitiarius' of Norfolk; and in 1141 the Empress Maud granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville 'ut sit capitalis justiciarius in Essexia . . . de placitis et forisfactis quae pertinuerint ad coronam meam.'<sup>1</sup> Considerable obscurity overhangs the functions of these justices, but it is not improbable that they were the predecessors of the later county coroners.

5. Equally obscure is a passage in the Pipe Roll of 31 Henry I., p. 91. Under the heading 'Norfolk and Suffolk,' a certain Benjamin accounts for £4 5s., 'ut custodiat placita quae coronae regis pertinent.'<sup>2</sup> Professor Maitland says: 'A Benjamin who has no surname looks uncommonly like a Jew, and perhaps the pleas that he wishes "to keep" are pleas concerning the Jews.' If this interpretation is correct, the prevailing view regarding the origin of the exchequer of the Jews will have to be modified. The language of the entry seems to indicate that Benjamin was a coroner.

6. The most conclusive evidence regarding the existence of county coroners before 1194 is an entry in the Curia Regis Roll for the Michaelmas term of 1194. In November 1194, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, William de Stutville, and their colleagues, itinerant justices in Lincolnshire, 'recorded,' or reported, before the justices at Westminster that Hugh de Severbi had accused Alured de Glenthams, as principal, and a certain Jordan, as accessory, of killing his brother. Hugh stated that after the commission of the crime the accused had been placed in the custody of the bailiffs of Gerard de Camville, sheriff of Lincolnshire. The coroners ('milites custodientes placita coronae'), having been called to Westminster, say that at the first county court after the homicide Hugh accused Jordan as principal and Alured as accessory.<sup>3</sup> The sheriff and men of the county confirm the testimony of the coroners. We must try to determine in what year the crime and the session of the county court took place, and when the case was laid before the itinerant justices. Our best clue is the reference to Gerard de Camville, who was sheriff of Lincolnshire from 1189 to 1194, with the exception of a few weeks in 1191.<sup>4</sup> In March 1194, he was deposed from office by Richard I., and in the following month charges of treason were brought against him.<sup>5</sup> It is wholly improbable that he was restored to office during this reign, for he had been

<sup>1</sup> Round, *Geoffrey de Mandeville*, 92, 110, 373; see also *ibid.* 150, 167.

<sup>2</sup> My attention was first called to this reference by Professor Maitland, in *English Hist. Review*, viii. 759; cf. Pollock and Maitland, *Hist. of English Law*, i. 520.

<sup>3</sup> *Rot. Curiae Regis* (ed. Palgrave), i. 50, 51.

<sup>4</sup> Hoveden (ed. Stubbs), iii. pp. xxix, lvi, 134, 137; Foss, *Judges*, ii. 48. He was made sheriff by Richard soon after the latter came to the throne.

<sup>5</sup> Hoveden, iii. 241-43.

an ardent supporter of John's conspiracy against the crown. Hugh de Severbi must, therefore, have made his accusation in the county court before the end of March 1194, and hence before September 1194, in which latter month the articles of the eyre were issued.<sup>1</sup> It is very probable that the knights or coroners reported at Westminster what had taken place in their presence in the county court, for we know that throughout the thirteenth century it was the function of the coroner to receive appeals or accusations in that court.<sup>2</sup> We may, then, infer that these 'milites custodientes' existed before the end of March 1194. Both Geoffrey Fitz-Peter and William de Stutville acted as itinerant justices in the great eyre which began its work in September 1194,<sup>3</sup> and the case of Hugh v. Alured and Jordan probably came before them in that eyre, before it was reported at Westminster.

Professor  
Maitland's  
views

7. Professor Maitland admits that the 'milites custodientes' were coroners; that Geoffrey Fitz-Peter and William de Stutville probably found coroners in Lincolnshire during the eyre from which they had recently returned; and that the coroners bore witness to something that happened before the issue of the articles of the eyre. But he maintains that they did not hold an official position when that something happened. 'That something,' he adds, 'was a proceeding in the county court; the coroners were knights of the shire, and, after all, they only said what the whole county said.'<sup>4</sup> This may be true, but the 'milites' say in this record just what knights who were coroners often say in records of the time of John and Henry III.: at the eyre they are asked to report concerning appeals of felony that have been made in their presence.<sup>5</sup> If, then, we may judge from later analogy, the 'milites' in 1194 report as coroners and not as knights of the shire. Moreover, it seems somewhat improbable that the two justices could have found coroners in Lincolnshire, if we accept the orthodox view that their office was created by the articles of that eyre; some weeks would elapse between the establishment of the office and the election of coroners in the county court.

Silence of  
Glanvill and  
the Pipe  
Rolls

8. On the other hand, coroners are not mentioned in Glanvill or in the printed Pipe Rolls of 2-19 Henry II. The silence of the former is more eloquent than that of the latter, but it may be due to the fact that the coroner's functions were not yet as extensive or well-defined as they became in the next century, and hence that Glanvill, in his meagre account of criminal procedure, had no occasion to refer

<sup>1</sup> Hoveden, iii. 262; Gervase of Canterbury, i. 528.

<sup>2</sup> Below, Note C.

<sup>3</sup> Maitland, Three Rolls of the King's

Court, p. xxvi; Engl. Hist. Rev. viii. 758.

<sup>4</sup> Engl. Hist. Rev. viii. 758.

<sup>5</sup> Below, iv. 7.

to the office. Even after 1194 such records as the *Rotuli Curiae Regis* rarely mention coroners during the reign of Richard I.

9. Some writers have ascribed their origin to the Anglo-Saxon period.<sup>1</sup> This view is improbable, because the power of the royal judicature and the idea of crown pleas were not yet fully developed under the Anglo-Saxon kings. As the jurisdiction of the *Curia Regis* gradually increased and that of the local public courts diminished in the century following the Norman Conquest, the king's peace was extended, the category of crown pleas was enlarged,<sup>2</sup> and new agents were therefore needed to see that criminals were brought to trial before the itinerant justices. The coroner was, in fact, an important concomitant of the eyre system; the latter needed the active co-operation of the former. Both existed primarily for the king's profit;<sup>3</sup> both were useful adjuncts of a highly-centralised government. The development of coroners may thus have been contemporary with that of the itinerant justices; both offices, perhaps, were tentatively employed under Henry I., fell in abeyance under Stephen, and were firmly established under Henry II. Moreover, Henry II. strove to curtail the authority of the sheriffs.<sup>4</sup> Some of their functions ultimately passed to the coroners, and the latter acted as a check on the former.<sup>5</sup> The rise of the coroner seems to imply a corresponding depression of the sheriff; the establishment of the new office may have been the result of Henry II.'s policy of reducing the power of the sheriffs, consolidating the king's peace, and centring the administration of justice in the itinerant justices and the *Curia Regis*. Whether this hypothesis is tenable or not, it is probable that chapter 20 of the articles of 1194 is merely a declaratory act, referring to an institution which was already in existence.

<sup>1</sup> Forsyth, *Trial by Jury*, 225; Coke, *Second Institute*, 31, who cites *Mirror*, ch. 1, § 3; Blackstone (ed. Sharswood), iv. 413; Maurer, *Anglo-Saxon Mark Courts*, 16; Chalmers, *Local Government*, 95. The evidence of the *Mirror* is as unreliable as that of the rhyming charter which Æthelstan is said to have granted to the monks of Beverley, which contains the line: 'Nan other coroner have the might': *Monasticon Anglic.* ii. 130; Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, ii. 322; Poulson, *Beverlac*, 39, 149.

<sup>2</sup> Stubbs, *Const. Hist.* §§ 72, 73, 128, 163; Bigelow, *Procedure*, 75-85; Pollock,

*Oxford Lectures*, 86; Maitland, *Manor Pleas*, pp. liii, liv.

<sup>3</sup> The coroner was expected to seek diligently for the forfeited chattels of felons, for deodands, wreck, and treasure-trove. See Britton, i. pp. xxxi, 11-18; Statute 4 Edw. I.; *Abbreviatio Originalium*, i. 18; *Placita de quo Warranto*, 114. In the coroners' rolls less concern is often manifested to bring the felon to justice than to secure his chattels for the king; below, iv. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Stubbs, *Const. Hist.* § 163.

<sup>5</sup> Below, iv. 5.



### III. Election, Qualifications, and Tenure of Office.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| County coroners, their number; deputies; districts | 1. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries there were four coroners in every county. <sup>1</sup> Each of them was assisted by a deputy ('clericus'), who sometimes held inquests. <sup>2</sup> The coroners seem usually to have served in the county at large, there being no division of the shire into coroners' districts; <sup>3</sup> coroners of certain hundreds, ridings or rapes are, however, occasionally mentioned. <sup>4</sup> They were elected in the county court 'with the assent of the whole county' or 'by the commons of the county.' The writ 'de coronatore eligendo' was the same in the first quarter of the thirteenth century as under Edward I. and his successors. The newly elected coroner took his oath of office ('ad custodienda ea quae pertinent ad coronam') in the county court before the sheriff, who afterwards sent his name to the king. <sup>5</sup> |
| Election   |  |
| Oath of office                                     |  |
| Qualifications                                     | The main qualifications for the office, during the thirteenth century, were knighthood <sup>6</sup> and residence in the same county. <sup>7</sup> In the fourteenth century knighthood seems no longer to have been a qualification. <sup>8</sup> Coroners were also required to have sufficient land or possessions in their counties, by which they might answer to the king and people. <sup>9</sup> Their tenure of office was for life or during good behaviour. <sup>10</sup> The Calendars of Close Rolls of Edward II.'s time indicate  |
| Tenure of office                                   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Pl. of Gl. 97; Rot. Claus. i. 402, 622, 648 (cf. *ibid.* i. 463, 506, ii. 91, 105, 119, 126); Bracton, ii. 430; Salt Soc. iv. 73, 208, 215, v. 121, vi. pt. i. 256, xii. 170; Northumb. Rolls, 372. Cf. *ibid.* 68, where only three coroners are mentioned. In some cases only two are mentioned: Rot. Claus. ii. 67 (Devon); Abbrev. Placit. 55 (Leicester); cf. Bracton, ii. 430.

<sup>2</sup> The 'clericus' referred to in the articles of 1194 (Sel. Charters, 260) was probably an ecclesiastic who acted as clerk or scribe. Deputies or 'clerici' are often mentioned under Henry III. and his successors: Bracton, ii. 588; Britton, i. 54; Fleta, fol. 20; Rot. Hund. i. 3, 112, 130, etc.; Plac. quo War. 309, 421; Salt Soc. iv. 215, vi. pt. i. 257. Britton, i. 7, says that it was unlawful for the coroner to substitute another in his place. Cf. Statutes, i. 211.

<sup>3</sup> For example, the coroners of Bedfordshire served in various hundreds: pp. 1-38. In Henry III.'s reign Adam Baret was 'coronator per totum comitatum': Northumb. Rolls, 68.

<sup>4</sup> Below, Note D and p. 111; Rot. Hund. i. 75, 371, 386, ii. 207; Memorials of

Ripon, i. 56. Roll 64, mem. 14: 'Rotulus Willelmi Skillet coronatoris domini regis in partibus Holland.'

<sup>5</sup> For the mode of election, oath, etc., see pp. 32, 99, 105; Rot. Claus. i. 366, 368, 402, 409, 414, 419 (bis), 463, 506, 560, 622, 648, ii. 67, 91, 105, 119, 121, 126; Cooper, Records, i. 421; Britton, i. 8; Statutes, i. 346; Rot. Parl. ii. 260. In a few cases the king seems to have appointed the coroner: below, p. 91, n. 3; Rot. Claus. i. 560. For the writ of election in the reign of Edw. I. and later, see Statutes, i. 62; Reg. Brevium, 177; Fitzherbert, Natura Brevium, 163; Jervis, Coroners (3rd ed.), 335.

<sup>6</sup> Henry III. generally orders the sheriff to cause knights to be elected. See the references to Rot. Claus. in the preceding note. Cf. Statutes, i. 2, 29.

<sup>7</sup> Rot. Claus. i. 419; Cal. of Close Rolls (1307-13), 287, 372; Rot. Parl. ii. 260.

<sup>8</sup> Statute 28 Edw. III. c. 6; county coroners are to be chosen from 'the most meet and most lawful men' of the county.

<sup>9</sup> Statutes, i. 283; Rot. Parl. ii. 229.

<sup>10</sup> In the Close Rolls the new election is often said to be due to death, illness, in-



that many coroners were removed when a new king came to the throne, but during the remaining years of the reign such changes do not seem to have been frequent.<sup>1</sup> In 25 Edward III. the commons prayed that sheriffs, coroners, and escheators should be changed annually, according to the statutes ordaining this, 'pur les outrages, charges et extorsions q'il fount a poeple.'<sup>2</sup> Statutes have come down to us which ordain this as regards sheriffs and escheators (for example, 14 Edward III. cc. 7, 8), but not as regards coroners.

The coroner was to exercise his office without reward; no fees could lawfully be imposed for holding inquests in cases of sudden death,<sup>3</sup> but in the Hundred Rolls there are numerous complaints that such fees were extorted from individuals and townships. He seems, however, to have received some remuneration from other sources.<sup>4</sup> He also enjoyed certain privileges, such as exemption from ordinary jury service, and from attendance at the hundred and county courts outside of his own shire.<sup>5</sup> But the office was evidently regarded as a burden, for many persons obtained royal grants which exempted them from acting as coroners—'ut non sit coronator noster.'<sup>6</sup>

2. There was also a coroner of the king's household or verge. His duties are described in Britton, i. 4: 'In our household let there be a coroner to execute the business of the crown throughout the verge<sup>7</sup> and wheresoever we shall be or come within our realm; and let the same person or some other be assigned to assay all weights and measures in every our verge throughout our realm according to our standards; and these two duties he shall not fail to do by reason of any franchise, unless such franchise be granted in fee farm or in alms by us or our predecessors.' He often held inquests alone or together

efficiency, or insufficient qualifications. See also Northumb. Rolls, 68; Eyton, Shropshire, iv. 118. In 1221 a coroner paid a fine to have himself removed from office: Pl. of Gl. 109. In 45 Edward III. Hugh de Muscham, coroner of Derbyshire, was removed from office by virtue of the king's writ: Roll 26, mcm. 6.

<sup>1</sup> Cal. of Close Rolls (1307-13), 13, 165, 381, 406, 470, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Parl. ii. 229.

<sup>3</sup> Coroners take oath that they will do what belongs to their office without reward: Britton, i. 8. See also *ibid.* i. 14; Statutes, i. 29, 211, 234<sup>a</sup>, ii. 334-5. Statute 3 Henry VII. c. 2 established a fee for holding each inquest on a person slain.

<sup>4</sup> Fitzherbert, Abridgement, Coron. 372, 3 Edw. III., a penny is to be paid to the coroner by each visne; Rot. Parl. i. 205,

a levy of corn 'pro sustentacione coronatorum regis,' 35 Edw. I.; cf. *ibid.* v. 123, fees in towns. The coroner's services were sometimes connected with land tenure. Testa de Nevill, 394, a person has lands 'quas tenet de serjancia . . . ut sit coronator;' Northumb. Rolls, 68, 'coronator de feodo;' cf. Vinogradoff, Villainage, 323.

<sup>5</sup> 'Coronatores quieti debent esse de assisis et sectis comitatus et hundredorum in aliis comitatibus quam in illis in quibus fuerint coronatores': Rot. Claus. i. 423. 'Nullus coronator poni debet in assisis, juratis vel recognitionibus, quamdiu fuerit coronator': *ibid.* ii. 191.

<sup>6</sup> Rôles Gascons (ed. Michel), 45, 124, 294, 297, 300, 468.

<sup>7</sup> The verge extended twelve miles around the king's residence: Statute 13 Rich. II. i. c. 3.

with a county coroner.<sup>1</sup> He was appointed by the king, but since Henry VIII.'s reign by the lord steward of the royal household.<sup>2</sup>

Borough  
Coroners

3. Many boroughs had their own coroners; a special grant from the king was necessary for the exercise of this privilege.<sup>3</sup> Their number in each town varied from one to four. In the reign of John there were usually four; later we meet more commonly with two.<sup>4</sup> In some towns, for example Northampton and Lincoln, we still find four coroners in the fourteenth century.<sup>5</sup> At Shrewsbury the number was changed from four to two in the reign of John.<sup>6</sup> At Oxford in 1285 there were four, but a few years later only two; there were also four for the suburbs.<sup>7</sup> At Ipswich a similar change in number seems to have occurred during the reign of Edward I. or Edward II.<sup>8</sup> These officers were elected by the civic community, or whole body of burgesses,<sup>9</sup> and were usually sworn into office in the shire court by the sheriff or itinerant justices.<sup>10</sup> In the fifteenth century and later they were doubtless elected, in many towns, by the 'select body.' In 23 Henry VI. 'the twenty-five' of Shrewsbury were empowered to choose two coroners, who were to exercise supervision over the common works of the town.<sup>11</sup> The tenure of borough coroners seems to have

<sup>1</sup> P. 85; Statutes, i. 138, 164; Rot. Parl. i. 284, 456. There was also a coroner of the King's Bench in the fifteenth century: Rot. Parl. iii. 472, vi. 337; cf. Jervis, Coroners, 4. For the coroners of the Admiralty, see *ibid.* 5, 62-66.

<sup>2</sup> Statute 33 Hen. VIII. c. 12.

<sup>3</sup> Plac. quo War. 18: 'Officium coronatoris mere spectat ad coronam regis ad quod nullus deputari potest sine speciali facto domini regis' (4 Edw. III.).

<sup>4</sup> Four are mentioned in Rot. Chart. 46 (bis), 56, 57, 65; Madox, Firma Burgi, 133; Pl. of Gl. 117; Merewether and Stephens, 392; Rot. Claus. i. 364. Perhaps the four men of each town mentioned in the assize of measures of 1197 were coroners: Hoveden, iv. 33; cf. Sel. Pleas, 98; Britton, i. 4. Two are referred to in Rolls 50, 53, 68, 122, 137, 158, 199; Sel. Pleas, 98; Merewether and Stephens, 466; Northumb. Rolls, 367; Hedges, Wallingford, i. 359 62; Chartae Hiberniae, 20; Eyton, Shrop. xi. 137; English Gilds, 350; Swinden, Yarmouth, 262; Charters of Salisbury (Rolls Series), 312; Plac. quo War. 18. Three coroners of York are mentioned in 1319: p. 112. In some boroughs there appears to have been only one coroner: Northumb. Rolls, 331; Salt Soc. iv. 73; Plac. quo War. 159; Worth, Plymouth, 181; Merewether and Stephens, 664, 867, 887, 965, 971, 975.

<sup>5</sup> P. 86; Abbrev. Placit. 349. Cf. Rot. Hund. ii. 2; Hartshorne, Northampton, 35, 42. Lincoln still had four coroners in 1835: Parl. Papers, 1839, vol. 18, p. 148.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Chart. 46, 142.

<sup>7</sup> Rogers, Documents, 147-168, 194, 217-23.

<sup>8</sup> Wodderspoon, Ipswich, 86; Bacon, Annals, 13, 16, 41, 47.

<sup>9</sup> Gross, Gild Merchant, ii. 116, 117; Rot. Chart. 46 (bis), 56, 57, 65, 142; Madox, Firma Burgi, 133.

<sup>10</sup> Below, Note A; Rot. Claus. i. 364; Chartae Hiberniae, 20; Plac. quo War. 159; English Gilds, 350. Roll 199, mem. 1: 'Rotulus record' Johannis de Upton jurati in officio coronatoris infra civitatem Nove Sar' coram Henrico Estormy vicecomite Wiltes' in pleno comitatu tento apud Wilton' (35 Edw. III.). The coroners of Newcastle, according to Henry III.'s charter, were to take the oath before the mayor and bailiffs in full [borough] court: Brand, Newc. ii. 141. In the year 1200 the coroners of Ipswich took the oath before the town community in the borough: Gross, Gild Merch. ii. 116, 117. Cf. below, p. 86.

<sup>11</sup> Rot. Parl. v. 123; Owen and Blake-way, Shrewsbury, i. 173. For other examples, see Parl. Papers, 1839, vol. 18, pp. 147-9.

been similar to that of county coroners.<sup>1</sup> Any burgher was eligible to the office.<sup>2</sup> The privilege of having such officers was a stage in the process of growth by which the borough administration was separated from that of the county.

4. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the citizens of London did not have the right to elect their coroner. The functions of that office were exercised by the chamberlain and the sheriffs<sup>3</sup>; with them the aldermen of the various wards co-operated.<sup>4</sup> The statement made by some writers that the offices of mayor, chamberlain, and coroner were held by the same person,<sup>5</sup> is not tenable. The mayor and the chamberlain were usually distinct persons,<sup>6</sup> but the chamberlain was *ex officio* coroner, at all events in the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II., and both these offices were held by the king's butler; the duties of coroner were usually performed by his deputy or by two deputies, who were called 'subcoronatores.'<sup>7</sup> 'Et nota,' says a record of 14 Edward II., 'quod botellarius domini regis et camerarius domini regis et coronator idem sunt.'<sup>8</sup> In the year 51 Edward III. and again in 1 Richard II. the commons and community of London complain to the king that they suffer many mischiefs because the coroner is not subject to the civic authorities ('n'est pas justisable par maire, aldermans, ne par autres ministres d'icels'), and they pray that they may be allowed to elect a coroner of themselves, and to remove him when they please, as various cities and towns are wont to do. The king responded that he would not depart from his ancient right.<sup>9</sup> In 1478 the mayor and community were granted the right to have a coroner of their own, distinct from the chief butler's coroner.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hist. MSS. Com. vi. 583; Rogers, Documents, 147; Plac. quo War. 159; Chartae Hibern. 20; Rot. Chart. 45, 46. At Shrewsbury in Richard II.'s reign there was an annual election: Owen and Blake-way, i. 173.

<sup>2</sup> The early borough charters refer to 'legales homines de burgo,' not to 'milites,' as persons qualified to hold the office. In Rot. Claus. i. 364, 'milites' are mentioned, but this looks like a slip of the scribe's pen; cf. Rot. Chart. 56.

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 127-8; Roll 94<sup>1</sup>; Liber Albus, 82-86, 93, 96, 112; Riley, Memorials, 3-20, 199, 520; Salt Soc. xiv. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Liber Albus, 52, 96; Liber de Antiqu. Legibus, 51.

<sup>5</sup> Riley, Memorials, 3; Loftie, London, 29; cf. Pulling, Laws of London, 19, 128.

<sup>6</sup> Riley, Memorials, 47, 55, 149, 169, 183, etc.; Liber Albus, 86, 96; Liber Cust. 239-46. The same person was, however, both mayor and chamberlain in 4-6 Edw. I. (Riley, Memorials, 3-17; Liber Cust. 239, 291); and John de Wengrave was both mayor and coroner or 'subcoronator' in 10-11 Edw. II. (Liber Cust. 245-6). These are merely exceptions to the general rule.

<sup>7</sup> Liber Cust. 113, 114, 239-46, 294-5; Cal. of Patent Rolls (1281-92), 194, 361; Cal. of Close Rolls (1307-13), 5, 169; (1313-18), 355; (1318-23), 276; Hist. Charters of London, 92, Roll 94<sup>1</sup>, mem. 9.

<sup>8</sup> Liber Cust. 296.

<sup>9</sup> Rot. Parl. ii. 367, iii. 19.

<sup>10</sup> Hist. Charters of London, 92.

## IV. Functions of the Coroner.

Wide sphere  
of the  
coroner's  
activity

1. Returning to the county coroners, to whom we must mainly devote our attention, let us consider their functions. The point to be emphasised in this connection is the wide sphere of their activity. Their duties were not confined to cases of sudden or violent death, but extended to a wide range of criminal matters and even to civil pleas. They were the principal agents of the crown in bringing criminals to justice. Britton (i. 8) calls them the principal guardians of the peace in each county.

Inquests

2. Their chief function was to hold inquests on the bodies of those supposed to have died either by violence or accident, and on the bodies of persons who died in prison.<sup>1</sup> According to Britton (i. 8) they also held inquests in cases of serious bodily injury, rape, prison-breach, and concealment of treasure-trove, but this statement is not confirmed by the coroners' rolls.<sup>2</sup> At the inquests Englishry was presented when necessary,<sup>3</sup> the chattels of the person indicted were appraised, or, in case of death by misadventure, the deodand was valued and was confiscated for the crown. The property thus appraised was usually placed in charge of the township in which the death occurred, and was accounted for at the next eyre; sometimes the property was placed in charge of four townships.<sup>4</sup> If the person indicted was found guilty at the eyre, his chattels were forfeited to the king. In fact, the inquests were a fertile source of royal revenue, and the jurors often seem to be more concerned about the felon's chattels than about his arrest and punishment. Persons declared guilty by the jury, and those who were present when the sudden death occurred, as well as the finders of the dead body, and often the two or four nearest neighbours were all either arrested or attached to appear at the trial before the itinerant justices.<sup>5</sup> The finders of the

Persons  
attached

Finder of  
the body

<sup>1</sup> As to deaths in prison, see pp. 77, 79-81, 112-3, 125; the number of such deaths was remarkably large.

<sup>2</sup> Bracton (ii. 280) enumerates, in this category, sudden death, the breaking of houses, and treasure-trove. *Fleta*, ff. 36-38, seems to state the matter more accurately than Bracton and Britton. 'Inquisitiones de roberis et incendiis,' in *Stat. Marl.* c. 24, probably refers to presentments in the hundred and county courts. See Note C, and cf. *Royal Letters* (ed. Shirley), i. 451. In the *Rolls* I find only one inquest concerning theft, p. 67, and one concerning prison-breach, p. 103; both were held in

connection with abjurations. Cf. *Abbrev. Plac.* 139. As to modern opinions on this subject, see Jervis, *Coroners*, 47-49.

<sup>3</sup> Below, Note D and pp. 4, 13, 26, 29, 82; Bracton, ii. 390; Britton, i. 16, 17; *Fleta*, fol. 46; *Statutes*, i. 58; *Pl. of Gl.* 57.

<sup>4</sup> *Pp.* 2, 7, 10, 15, 27, 30, 48-58, 74, 96, 98, 100, 102, etc. The property might even be committed to the care of the coroner's jury: p. 98, n. 6.

<sup>5</sup> *Pp.* 1, 4, 9, 12-16, 25, 30, 39, 40, 49, 51, etc. In some cases the township acts as surety for the appearance of the four neighbours: p. 109, and *Rolls* 200, 203.



body were not attached if the deceased had received the last rites of the church, presumably because he would then have an opportunity to exculpate them.<sup>1</sup> This explains the words 'habuit jura ecclesiastica,' which are frequently found in the inquests. The finder of a person feloniously slain was expected to raise the hue.<sup>2</sup> In some counties, he notified the four nearest neighbours that he had found the body; they, in turn, notified the bailiff of the hundred; and he sent for the coroner.<sup>3</sup>

3. The coroners also received the declarations of approvers,<sup>4</sup> and heard ordinary 'appeals,' or criminal accusations brought by one person against another, the final trial being reserved for the eyre.<sup>5</sup> They kept, moreover, a record of exigents and outlawries,<sup>6</sup> and received the confession and abjuration of felons who had fled to sanctuary.<sup>7</sup>

4. These various functions are mentioned in the reigns of John and Henry III., and are briefly set forth in Bracton, Britton, Fleta, the so-called Statute of 4 Edward I.,<sup>8</sup> the Statute of Wales (1284), the Statute of Exeter,<sup>9</sup> and in the text-books of legal history.<sup>10</sup>

To these duties, which by themselves amply testify to the importance of the office, others are to be added concerning which the information in the above-mentioned sources is quite meagre. We may infer from the early town charters and from *Magna Carta*, chapter 24, that before 1215 these officers tried criminal pleas ('placita coronae'); and even after that date they passed judgment on felons caught in the act.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, before and after 1215 they often con-

<sup>1</sup> Pp. 5, 83, 94-96, 110, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Pp. 4, 10, 12, 14, etc. If the person died by mischance, it was not necessary to raise the hue: Britton, i. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 45, 46.

<sup>4</sup> Pp. 36, 41, 45, 77, 81, 127-30.

<sup>5</sup> Note C. <sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Pp. 9, 29, 37, 38, 58 n. 4, 66-69, 75, 103. For the oath of abjuration, see Statutes, i. 250, and Bracton, ii. 394; the oath formerly used at Colchester is printed in Norfolk Archaeology, vii. 266, and in Harrod's Records of Coteh. 32.

<sup>8</sup> Pollock and Maitland (Hist. of English Law, ii. 641) regard this as an apocryphal statute, and believe that it is an extract from Bracton, fol. 121b, slightly altered. Much may be said in favour of this view. The agreement between the document and Bracton is striking. The only things considered in the former and omitted in Bracton's account of the coroner's office are the valuation of wrecks and the duty of following the hue and cry, both of which matters seem to be taken from the Statute of Westminster, 3 Edw. I. The so-called Statute

'de officio coronatoris' is, moreover, not mentioned by Britton or Fleta or by later statutes.

<sup>9</sup> Statutes, i. 210. This undated statute doubtless belongs to the first half of Edward I.'s reign; it was used by Fleta, fol. 20, and by Britton, i. 86.

<sup>10</sup> For the coroner's functions in the reigns of John and Henry III., see Rot. Curiae Regis, i. 51, 418; Sel. Pleas, 3, 9-19, 28, 33, 45, 63-70, 84, 88, 100-117; Pl. of Gl. 4, 15, 20-47, 55-78, 94-115; Rot. Claus. i. 432, 617, 641, ii. 28, 31, 51; Bracton, ii. 280-90, 388-90, 394-96, 424-32, 510, 522, 524, 542; Note Book, ii. 117, 402, 650, iii. 131; Statutes, i. 11, 25; Sel. Charters, 384 85; Northumb. Rolls, 71-86, 96-107, 117-125; Salt Soc. iii. 91, 95, iv. 71, 73, 214, 215; Liber Albus, 83-96, 112; Norfolk Archaeol. ii. 253-79. Cf. below, pp. 1-30.

<sup>11</sup> Britton, i. 37, 56; Salt Soc. iv. 214; cf. Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 502. In Edw. III.'s reign we are informed that no coroner could be a justice: Rot. Parl. ii. 265.

Their position in the county court

They convene the hundred court  
Their ministerial functions

They look after wrecks and treasure-trove;

and the assizes of bread, &c.; and take the place of the sheriff  
Their relations to the sheriff

ducted jury trials in ordinary civil pleas, either taking the place of the sheriff or, more commonly, associated with him.<sup>1</sup> In the county court their position and activity were not much inferior to his.<sup>2</sup> Fleta (fol. 40) calls that tribunal 'the court of the coroner and the sheriff.' Britton (i. 135) says that in counties there is a twofold court, one of the pleas of the king's peace, which is held by the coroners and suitors and of which the coroners only have record, the other [for civil actions], in which the suitors are judges and have no record out of their court, except by consent of the parties. Our rolls, in dealing with the business of the county court, use the phrases 'pleas of the crown' and 'pleas of the coroner' interchangeably.<sup>3</sup> The coroners also, with or without the sheriff, sometimes convened the hundred for judicial business, and even held the sheriff's tourn.<sup>4</sup> They were, furthermore, occasionally employed by the crown to transact ministerial or administrative business, assisting or superseding the sheriff—for example, to value lands of the royal demesne, to bring prisoners before the justices, etc.<sup>5</sup> They also caused wrecks and treasure-trove to be appraised and to be placed in safe-keeping until they were accounted for at the eyre.<sup>6</sup> 'If treasure is found in the earth . . . the coroner shall go forth and inquire whether any of it has been carried off and by whom, and save all he can for the king.'<sup>7</sup> Together with the sheriff, they attached persons breaking the assizes of bread and beer and measures.<sup>8</sup> In default of the sheriff, or if he was a party in a suit, royal writs were regularly executed by the coroners.<sup>9</sup>

5. Indeed, throughout the thirteenth century, the latter acted as a check on the former.<sup>10</sup> In criminal matters their rolls had more

<sup>1</sup> Note Book, ii. 277, 389, 420, 425, 452, 466, 516, 571, 572, 627, 675, 682, iii. 151, 155, 228, 264, 473; Statutes, i. 2, 23; Salt Soc. iv. 84, 95, 97, vi. pt. i. 128; Monast. Anglie. vi. 2; Memorials of Ripon, i. 56; Abbrev. Placit. 129, 180, 260, 266; Records of Nottingham, i. 47; Yorksh. Inquisitions, 118. Cf. Northumb. Rolls, 195; Note Book, iii. 57, 489; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 30; Liber Albus, 187.

<sup>2</sup> Note C; Britton, i. 54, 110, 12, 135; Bracton, ii. 540, 512; Sel. Charters, 362; Statutes, i. 56; Pl. of Gl. 102; Northumb. Rolls, 105, 117, 315; Sel. Pleas, 70; Maitland, Court Baron, 89, 90. Cf. Palgrave, Merchant and Friar, 54.

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 33, 36.

<sup>4</sup> Sel. Pleas, 68, 70, 117; Northumb. Rolls, 164; Furness Coucher Book, 135-36; Plac. quo War. 371. Cf. *ibid.* 138, 629; Shirley, Letters, i. 451.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Claus. i. 437 (bis), 622, 648; Plac. quo War. 228, 792; Salt Soc. vii. 63.

<sup>6</sup> As to wreck, see Stat. Westm., 3 Edw. I. c. 4; Abbrev. Plac. 137; Rot. Parl. i. 164; Rot. Hund. i. 56, 78; Britton, i. 18; Northumb. Rolls, 332. The sheriff sometimes caused the wreck to be appraised; Abbrev. Plac. 133; Statutes, i. 28.

<sup>7</sup> Britton, i. 67; cf. *ibid.* i. 18. See also below, p. 27; Bracton, ii. 286; Statutes, i. 211<sup>a</sup>; Pl. of Gl. 46; Northumb. Rolls, 78.

<sup>8</sup> Bracton, ii. 512.

<sup>9</sup> Bracton, i. 596; Note Book, iii. 55, 57, 489; Britton, ii. 71; Plac. quo War. 685; Abbrev. Plac. 260, 294, 312, 314; Salt Soc. x. 34, xiv. 3; Madox, Exch. ii. 238; Memorials of Ripon, i. 56. Cf. Year Books, 14 Edw. III. 36, 238, 307.

<sup>10</sup> Pl. of Gl. p. xxxiii; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 30; Stubbs, Const. Hist. §§ 150, 163, 206; Sel. Charters, 291.

authority than his.<sup>1</sup> The elected officers of the county thus gained power at the expense of the appointed agent of the king, especially in connection with the administration of justice. The coroner, the representative not merely of the king but also of the people,<sup>2</sup> owing his position to the suffrage of the community and belonging to that community, was less liable than the sheriff to be oppressive and obnoxious to the people; for the sheriff often bought his appointment from the crown, frequently lived in some other county, and generally regarded his office as an instrument of private gain. Thus serious complaints against the 'coronatores' on account of bribery and oppression, though such complaints are not infrequent,<sup>3</sup> are less numerous than those against the 'vicecomites.'<sup>4</sup> By transferring power from the latter to the former and by placing the coroner's election in the hands of the people, the king diminished their grievances and at the same time made them responsible for the proper exercise of this office. A record of 6 Edward II., describing the opening of the eyre, states that concerning coroners elected by the county who are dead and have no property, all the said county is charged to answer before the justices for their official acts during their term of office.<sup>5</sup> We must, however, be careful not to exaggerate the coroner's function as controller of the chief officer of the shire; for both offices might be held by the same person<sup>6</sup> (though probably this did not often happen), and, in the reign of Edward I., Britton seems to have regarded the sheriff as a check on the coroner, or the two as counter-checks on each other.<sup>7</sup>

6. In boroughs the relation of the coroners to the chief municipal officer or officers (reeve, mayor, or bailiffs) was similar to that of the county coroners to the sheriff. In the early borough charters the 'custodes placitorum coronae' are said to be elected 'ad videndum quod praepositi juste et legitime tractent tam pauperes quam divites.'<sup>8</sup> The former were generally associated with the latter in the hearing

<sup>1</sup> Bracton, ii. 430. The Statute of Westminster, 3 Edw. I. c. 10, regarding the rolls of the coroners and of the sheriff, is merely declaratory of what existed under John and Henry III. See Sel. Pleas, 28; Salt Soc. iii. 91.

<sup>2</sup> He was answerable to the king and people: Statutes, i. 283; Rot. Parl. ii. 229.

<sup>3</sup> Statutes, i. 211, 234; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 282; Britton, i. 86; Rot. Parl. ii. 60; Rot. Hund. i. 3, 19, 38, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Northumb. Rolls, p. xx; Riess, Wahlrecht, 3-5; Prothero, Simon de Montfort, 162, 300; Bémont, Simon de Montfort,

132-34.

<sup>5</sup> Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. p. lvii. In 14 Edw. III. a county, 'ut elector et superior,' was held responsible for the fine of a coroner who had no property: Coke, Second Inst. 175.

<sup>6</sup> Northumb. Rolls, 68; Salt Soc. iv. 71.

<sup>7</sup> 'Viscountes . . . soit seen countreroulour en tut seen office': Britton, i. 17. The construction of the sentence is somewhat obscure; perhaps Britton meant to say that the coroner was the controller of the sheriff. Cf. Statutes, i. 29, 56.

<sup>8</sup> Rot. Chart. 46 (bis), 56, 57, 65, 142.

of criminal pleas and sometimes in the administrative work of the borough.<sup>1</sup> Coroners' inquests were held with or without the chief civic officer.<sup>2</sup> In the Cinque Ports and some other boroughs the two offices were united.<sup>3</sup> At Worcester the coroners also looked after the assize of wine; and at Shrewsbury they had charge of the public works.<sup>4</sup>

Coroners at  
the eyre

7. Next, the functions of the coroner at the eyre are to be noted. Here he is a very prominent figure—an important link between the itinerant justices and local administration, and hence between the crown and the people. He safeguarded the interests of the king until they could be brought before the royal justices. Whether he was coroner of a county or of a franchised district, his presence at the eyre was almost indispensable, and was enforced under severe penalties 'As to the coroners who did not come, the sheriff was ordered to go to their houses and turn out their wives and children, and to take their lands into the king's hands until they should come.'<sup>5</sup> At the opening of the eyre the justices received all coroners' rolls in use since the last circuit, and sealed them, probably to prevent alterations in the records during the proceedings of the court.<sup>6</sup> In the trial of criminal pleas the itinerant justices often had recourse to the testimony of the coroners or of their rolls.<sup>7</sup> These records, which had

<sup>1</sup> Records of Nottingham, i. 66; Gross, Gild Merch. ii. 116-122; Merewether and Stephens, 588; Bacon, Annals of Ipsw. 18, 28; Domesday of Ipsw. 20, 50-53, 96-99; Plac. quo War. 18; Archaeol. Journal, xvi. 314; Swinden, Yarm. 261; cf. Liber Albus, 187; Riley, Memorials, 520.

<sup>2</sup> At Northampton in Edw. II.'s reign inquests were held before four coroners and the mayor (Roll 108); at Ipswich in Edw. III.'s time, before two coroners and the bailiffs (Roll 178). See also Norfolk Archaeology, ii. 259; Winch. vol. of the Brit. Archaeol. Assoc. 81; Riley, Memorials, 3-20; Hedges, Wallingford, i. 359-362; Hist. MSS. Com. vi. 505, 583-584; Rogers, Documents, 150-176.

<sup>3</sup> Lyon, Dover, ii. 269, 303, 314, 347, 371; Poulson, Beverlac, App. 58; Parl. Papers, 1839, vol. 18, pp. 146-7. In Dublin the bailiffs were *ex officio* coroners: Gilbert, Dublin Records, i. 155, 226. Cf. below, Note A.

Some of the early coroners' rolls of boroughs (Edw. I.-Edw. III.) are still extant in London, Leicester, Wallingford, Oxford, Faversham, and Ipswich: Hist. MSS. Com. i. 104, iii. 318, vi. 508, 509, 582, 584, viii. pt. i. 411, ix. pt. i. 226-7. Extracts from those of London and Oxford

have been printed in Riley's Memorials, 3-20, and Rogers's Documents, 150-174. The extracts concerning Norwich in Norfolk Archaeology, ii. 253-79, seem to be taken from the eyre rolls. The coroners' rolls in the Public Record Office contain many inquests and appeals relating to boroughs: see below, pp. 79, 87-91, 106-9, 112-13 126-27.

<sup>4</sup> Sel. Pleas, 98; Owen and Blakeway, Shrewsbury, i. 173.

<sup>5</sup> Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 75-77; cf. *ibid.* pp. lvi, lvii.—After the old general eyres had fallen into disuse, the coroners appeared before the justices of gaol-delivery: Statutes, ii. 511, iv. pt. i. 259; Rot. Parl. ii. 266; cf. below, p. 110.

<sup>6</sup> Britton, i. 23; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. pp. lvi, lvii, 75; Liber Cust. 295, 296; Rogers, Documents, 183; Plac. quo War. 25, 309; cf. Fleta, fol. 20.

<sup>7</sup> Sel. Pleas, 3, 9-19, 28, 33, 84, 88, 103, 107, 117; Pl. of Gl. 7, 11, 20-28, 32, 39, 55, 57, 62, 78, 94-102, 109, 115; Northumb. Rolls, 70, 78, 79, 105, 117, 315, 346; Salt Soc. iii. 91, 95, vi. pt. i. 261-263, 274; Note Book, ii. 117, iii. 407, 678; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 496, 518; Rogers, Documents, 201, 204. The rolls are first mentioned early in John's reign.



great authority,<sup>1</sup> supplemented, checked or corrected the presentments of the juries of the hundreds,<sup>2</sup> and thus tended to insure the trial of all felons. They also indicated defects in the administration of justice in shire, hundred, and township, in connection with appeals of felony, outlawries, the custody of prisoners, *hue and cry*, etc.<sup>3</sup> Then again, the judges, during the sessions of the eyre, made use of the coroners in connection with civil pleas, ordering them to see whether the essoinees were acting in good faith,<sup>4</sup> to summon parties in a suit, to empanel a jury for the trial of some issue or for the making of a record of proceedings in the county court.<sup>5</sup>

8. The coroners bound together central and local government in still another way. They linked the manorial to the royal jurisdiction, for their presence was necessary in privileged baronial courts when felonies were attached or tried. When a criminal was caught red-handed, or with the mainour, in the district of a seigneur who had infangthef, the penalty of death could be lawfully inflicted only in the presence of a coroner.<sup>6</sup> Some manors had coroners of their own,<sup>7</sup> but this privilege does not seem to have been very common in the thirteenth century. The crown was seemingly more reluctant to grant this right to manors than to boroughs, probably because the lords were more likely to withhold the forfeited chattels of felons and in general to usurp the royal prerogatives.<sup>8</sup> Manorial coroners were responsible to no body of electors, but, in the first instance, only to the seigneur,<sup>9</sup> whom they would naturally serve more faithfully than the

<sup>1</sup> For their authority and value, see Bracton, ii. 427-430; Britton, i. 18, 111, 112, 135; Plac. quo War. 18; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 503, 543, 544; Sel. Pleas, 28; Norfolk Archaeology, ii. 259, 260; cf. Staunford, Plees del Coron, 51, 52. The coroners were severely punished for alterations, erasures, or errors in their rolls: Pl. of Gl. 62; Salt Soc. iv. 215; Britton, i. 14; Fleta, fol. 37; Plac. quo War. 421.

<sup>2</sup> Pl. of Gl. 7. 29, 55, 57, 96, 101; Sel. Pleas, 28, 33. The jury also acted as a check on the coroners: Pl. of Gl. 62; Northumb. Rolls, 313; Salt Soc. iv. 73; Rogers, Documents, 202, 203.

<sup>3</sup> See above, p. xxviii, n. 7.

<sup>4</sup> See Bracton, v. 317; Note Book, iii. 55.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p. xxvi, nn. 1 and 9; and cf. Abbrev. Placit. 55.

<sup>6</sup> Plac. quo War. 121, 125, 148, 170, 217, 309, 334, 335, 603, 759; Sel. Pleas, 84, 117; Furness Coucher Book, 133; Spelman, Gloss., s.v. 'Furea'; Monast. Anglie. ii. 447; Britton, i. 18, 37, 56; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 502; Salt, Soc. iv. 214. Cf. Bracton, ii. 540-42.

<sup>7</sup> Pp. 56, 116, 120-22; Roll 238 (St. Peter's, York); Plac. quo War. 24, 25, 112-14, 197, 201, 222-24, 305, 334, 335, 394, 421, 593, 604, 778 (cf. *ibid.* 73, 74, 305, 332, 340, 421, 675); Monast. Anglie. ii. 130; Memorials of Ripon, i. 52, 57, 68, 69; Furness Coucher Book, 157-159, 165, 166; Blomefield, Norfolk, iii. 49, 52; Gross, Gild Merch. ii. 48, 365; Rot. Hund. i. 119, 120, ii. 169, 280; Vinogradoff, Villainage, 323; Rot. Parl. i. 152, 436, ii. 260, v. 85, 96, 100, 191, 578, vi. 373.

<sup>8</sup> Plac. quo War. 114: complaint is made that the coroners of a lord and those of his ancestors had concealed such chattels. The king's distrust of manorial coroners is also shown by the frequent inquiry whether they had taken the oath of office. See *ibid.* 24, 113, 222.

<sup>9</sup> The office of manorial coroner seems to have been filled and held at the will of the lord: Plac. quo War. 24, 112, 222; Memorials of Ripon, i. 63; Statute 28 Edw. III. c. 6; Rot. Parl. ii. 260, v. 578; Hale, Pleas of the Crown, ii. 53. In some cases, however, such coroners were

crown. The king preferred, therefore, to have the county coroners act as a medium between him and the manors. It was their function to protect the royal rights and profits against the lords, lay and spiritual, in all matters relating to crown pleas. They could enter franchised places from which the sheriff was ordinarily excluded<sup>1</sup>—a fact which confirms the conclusion that they gained power at his expense. Thus the coroners, like the itinerant justices, tended to bring or keep the seignorial jurisdictions under royal control, and to check the growth of feudalism.

## V. The Coroner's Jury and the Petty Jury.

1. Having indicated the functions and importance of this institution in the middle ages, let us now examine more carefully the coroner's jury and the mode of the coroner's election, both of which exerted some influence upon other institutions.

Composition  
of the coro-  
ner's jury

'Inquest' ('inquisitio') is an interesting survival of a word which is associated with the birth of a new system of procedure, and which in medieval England was a common generic term applicable to all forms of the jury, whether used for judicial or administrative purposes. The composition of the coroner's inquest jury, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, varied somewhat in different localities and at different times. Most commonly it consisted, wholly or in part, of a representation from 'four neighbouring townships' ('villatae'), namely that in which the body was found or in which the death occurred, and the three nearest vills. Sometimes the jury was taken from five townships, and less frequently from three, six, or eight.<sup>2</sup> The most common form of inquest jury mentioned in our rolls is that in which the verdict is found by twelve men together with four neighbouring townships or tithings,<sup>3</sup> the twelve men probably representing the whole hundred.<sup>4</sup> The four vills and the twelve men seem often to be

The four  
vills

elected: Furness Coucher Book, 159, 166 (Edw. III.).

<sup>1</sup> Plac. quo War. 121, 125, 148, 603; Furness Coucher Book, 133; Rot. Chart. 129; Note Book, ii. 55. Cf. Bracton, ii. 540, 542; Maitland, Manor. Pleas, p. xxvi.

<sup>2</sup> Five vills: pp. 9, 12-18, 23-24, 28, 30, 41, 44, 94; and Rolls 11, 14, 18, 21; Statutes, i. 56, 58. Three vills: pp. 36, 49-51, 96, 98, 109. Six are mentioned on p. 49, and eight on p. 25. Bracton, ii. 280, says that the jurors were taken from four, five, or six townships; Britton, i. 9, and Fleta, fol. 36, say from four or more. In some cases a single vill is said to answer for four (pp. 120-22; Roll 233. mem. 19);

or a vill which answers by twelve men finds a verdict (p. 124).

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 41, 47-49, 60, 62, 74-77, 94-97, etc. As to tithings, see pp. 95, 96, 105-6; Roll 10, mem. 8, 9 (Berks). The term is doubtless here used for township.

<sup>4</sup> Inquests in Roll 112 (Northamptonshire) are held 'per quatuor villatas propinquiores et per xii. liberos et legales homines hundredi.' Roll 107, mem. 8: 'per sacramentum xii. jur' hundredi de Cleyle.' Cf. pp. 42-44. The twelve of the hundred seem to have been freeholders (cf. pp. 94-96; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 525); the men of the vills were usually 'villani.'

regarded as two distinct bodies ;<sup>1</sup> their verdicts may be given separately.<sup>2</sup> Then again, each vill may make its own statement ;<sup>3</sup> or the vills may find a verdict collectively and severally.<sup>4</sup> The number of persons from each ' villata ' seems to have been indeterminate ; it was regulated by no definite rule or principle ; as many were summoned as were deemed sufficient for the inquest.<sup>5</sup> In most of the cases in which the number is stated, each township sent its reeve and four men,<sup>6</sup> the whole jury consisting of thirty-two persons. Many inquests were, however, held ' per xii. juratores ' <sup>7</sup> or ' per xii. juratores de quatuor villatis propinquieribus ' ; <sup>8</sup> even in the former cases the twelve men often came from four neighbouring vills.<sup>9</sup> In boroughs and manors we find various forms of the inquest jury similar to those employed in unfranchised districts, but in the borough the ward, aldermanry, or parish took the place of the township.<sup>10</sup> Perhaps the underlying idea in using four vills or wards instead of one was the expectation that a more impartial verdict would thus be secured.

2. The inquest was usually held before one coroner, sometimes before two or three.<sup>11</sup> In Cambridgeshire the *bailiff* of the hundred summoned the jury, and the townships and freeholders were amerced if they did not appear before the coroner.<sup>12</sup> Townships were often amerced at the eyre for refusing to come to the inquests or for not appearing in full.<sup>13</sup>

3. The activity of the four townships was not confined to such jury service. Other communal duties were imposed upon them collectively, especially in connection with criminal administration.<sup>14</sup> They also presented felonies in the hundred and shire courts.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pp. 39-44, 52-58, 61, 63.

<sup>2</sup> Pp. 92-95 ; and Rolls 8, 9, 97, 100, 131-40.

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 2, 8, 25, 59, 60, 63. <sup>4</sup> P. 29.

<sup>5</sup> The Provisions of Westminster, ch. 24, require the presence of a number sufficient to make the inquest. Cf. Britton, i. 10 ; Shirley, Letters, i. 451. The Statute of Marlborough, ch. 24, and the Statutum Walliae, ch. 5, state that all of twelve years of age or older ought to appear in inquests concerning death, unless they are excused. In 1305 the king ordered inquiry to be made whether coroners put poor people on juries and spare the rich : *Archaeologia*, xi. 96, 97, 103.

<sup>6</sup> Pp. 41 n. 5, 42, 52-56, 81 ; Roll 114, mem. 3, 7 ; Roll 117. Cf. Rot. Claus. ii. 51.

<sup>7</sup> Pp. 81-85, 102-5, 110, 124.

<sup>8</sup> Pp. 98, 101, 109-10.

<sup>9</sup> Pp. 45-47, 61, 104-5 ; Roll 130. Four men from each of three vills : pp. 49-51. In some of the rolls--for example, those of

Lincolnshire--the inquests are held by twelve persons named, the vill to which each belongs being mentioned ; there are usually four or five such vills. Many inquests are held ' per quatuor villatas propinquieres,' nothing being said regarding the number of jurors : pp. 1-17, 23-30, 58-60, 73, 77. For modern attempts to enforce the old ' quatuor villatae ' system, see Jervis, *Coroners* (3rd ed.), 253-4.

<sup>10</sup> Pp. 79, 87-92, 106-9, 112-3, 119-20, 126-7 ; Riley, *Memorials*, 3-20 ; *Hist. MSS. Com.* vi. 583. In our rolls the jury in boroughs most commonly consists of twelve men. At Oxford in 1297-1307 from 20 to 30 persons served on the jury : Rogers, *Documents*, 150-168.

<sup>11</sup> Pp. 9, 63, 85, 112, 126.

<sup>12</sup> Pp. 42-44 ; cf. pp. 83, 84, 97 n. 6 ; *Mirror of Justices* (Selden Soc.), p. 29.

<sup>13</sup> Salt Soc. iv. 210-14, vi. pt. i. 262, 269, 273 ; *Northumb. Rolls*, 95-100.

<sup>14</sup> Note B.

<sup>15</sup> Note C.

The four  
vills and the  
petty jury

4. These details throw some light upon the relation of 'the four townships' to the twelve 'juratores' of the hundred, who at the eyre presented and also tried persons accused of crime.<sup>1</sup> During Henry III.'s reign this jury, after having presented that a certain person is suspected of crime, 'is asked to say in so many words whether this man is guilty or no. If it finds him guilty, then the four neighbouring townships are sworn and answer the same question. If they agree with the hundredors, sentence is passed. . . . By the end of Henry III.'s reign it is common that the question of guilt or innocence should be submitted to the presenting jury, to the jury of another hundred and to the four vills. . . . The practice of swearing in these villagers seems to be abandoned [in Edward I.'s reign] as the accused acquires his right to a second jury of free and lawful men.'<sup>2</sup> The importance of these vills, as an element in the body that tried the accused, has been pointed out by Professor Maitland in his suggestive introduction to the Pleas of Gloucester.<sup>3</sup> He rightly remarks that 'the history of the petty jury is still in MS.' He is inclined to seek its germ in the 'quatuor villatae';<sup>4</sup> their representatives 'became a second body of witnesses who could traverse the testimony of the hundred jury.'<sup>5</sup> This is a plausible theory; if the work of the neighbouring townships at the eyre was not the germ of the petty jury, it was at least a stage in the development of procedure which the future historian of trial by jury cannot safely ignore.

Origin of the  
petty jury

5. The origin of the traverse or trial jury was probably connected with a specific class of cases, namely appeals of felony. Before and after the abolition of the ordeal (*circa* 1219), for which the petty jury was substituted, the appellee was often tried by a jury instead of

<sup>1</sup> There seems to be little doubt that in the thirteenth century the same jury of the hundred which presented a person, also tried him. See Pl. of Gl. p. xliii; Palgrave, Commonwealth, ii. 188; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 259, 274, 279, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Pollock and Maitland, Hist. of English Law, ii. 644-6. The four vills were still active in the trial jury as late as 21 Edw. I.: Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 259-84.

<sup>3</sup> Pl. of Gl. pp. xlii-iv. For examples of the 'villatae' employed in the trial of persons presented by the jury as suspected, see Pl. of Gl. pp. xlv, 92, 98; Sel. Pleas, 105, 116, 117 (bis), 119, 125-127; Note Book, ii. 115, 116, 634, iii. 407; Northumb. Rolls, 94, 101, 104, 115, 121, 123, 350; Palgrave, Commonw. ii. 186-8; Salt Soc. iv. 69, 71, vi. pt. i. 259, 269, 274, 279, 283-4; Abbrev. Placit. 104. Some of these cases are preliminary examinations rather

than formal trials; the latter were dispensed with when there was strong evidence against the accused. Recourse was sometimes had to the jurors of the neighbouring hundred or hundreds or counties, instead of the neighbouring townships, or to both hundreds and townships combined. See Pl. of Gl. p. xlii; Sel. Pleas, 7, 8, 116, 119; Salt Soc. xiv. 71; Pollock and Maitland, ii. 645; Abbrev. Placit. 290; Note Book, ii. 115.

<sup>4</sup> At the eyre, as in the coroner's inquest, four vills are usually mentioned, but often three and five are also referred to.

<sup>5</sup> In the History of English Law, Professor Maitland still lays stress upon the activity of the neighbouring townships, but he says: 'At present we do not think that "the four townships" can be said to become the petty jury of later days' (ii. 646).



wager of battle. When such an appeal was presented by the jurors of the hundred, the neighbouring vills were sometimes asked for their testimony, and on that testimony the accused might be declared innocent or guilty.<sup>1</sup> In these appeals and in trials resulting from ordinary presentments by the public voice, the four townships often appear to be regarded as a body distinct from the accusing 'juratores'—a body, in fact, which virtually decides the case like the later petty jury.

The four  
vills and the  
presenting  
jury

6. The neighbouring vills were sometimes also employed in connection with the presentment jury in making accusations, and in such cases much weight was attached to their testimony.<sup>2</sup> The 'villatae' were probably not a regular part of either the accusing or the trial jury, but were called upon in certain emergencies to add their knowledge of the facts to that of the 'juratores,' seemingly when the latter were in doubt or when the court deemed it expedient that they should be afforded. When such use was made of the vills, their declaration was generally accepted by the court as a decisive verdict. The number of persons from each of the four townships added in this way to the hundred jury is rarely stated in the printed sources, but would naturally be the reeve and four men, who usually appeared at the eyre to represent the township.<sup>3</sup>

Relations of  
the coroner's  
jury to the  
trial jury

7. This activity of the neighbouring 'villatae' in criminal pleas<sup>4</sup> may, perhaps, be largely due to the fact that the townships had already, in most cases, made a careful investigation of the offence in connection with the coroner's inquest, and would therefore have more exact knowledge of the facts than the hundred jury. The same

<sup>1</sup> Pl. of Gl. 29; Sel. Pleas, 66, 103, 106; Palgrave, *Commonw.* ii. 185; Note Book, ii. 406, 425 (bis), 457, iii. 471; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 259; Abbrev. Placit. 126.

<sup>2</sup> Sel. Pleas, 3-5, 26, 66, 117; Northumb. Rolls, 126, 350; Palgrave, *Commonw.* ii. 186; Note Book, iii. 538; Pl. of Gl. 5, 7, 46, 53, 55, 92, 96, 101; Salt Soc. iii. 42, iv. 71; Bracton, ii. 456, 536; Rot. Parl. ii. 83; Abbrev. Placit. 71, 104. Most of these cases are clear; but some of them may refer to indictments by vills in the hundred or county courts (Note C). The vills made presentments at the eyre in the time of Henry II., according to the Assize of Northampton: Sel. Charters, 151.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Claus. i. 380, 403, 473, 476; Bracton, ii. 188; Britton, i. 19; Rot. Parl. i. 300; Stubbs, *Const. Hist.* § 163. According to the Assize of Northampton, four from each vill made presentments at the eyre. Six or eight men from each of four vills sometimes appear before the

royal justices at Westminster or elsewhere: Sel. Pleas, 125-7; Bracton, ii. 504; Note Book, iii. 471; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 76; Statutes, i. 33; Abbrev. Placit. 104, 321; Lewis, *Anc. Laws of Wales*, 304.

<sup>4</sup> I have met with few examples of the employment of the vills on juries in civil suits. In the reign of John the prior of Lecton [Leighton] complains that certain persons do not perform their services (ploughing, etc.). They come and place themselves upon a jury of three vills, 'Litton et Hocton et Lecton, quarum due solebant semper judicare tertiam si aliqua orta esset contentio inter illas': Abbrev. Placit. 95. In Edw. II.'s reign it was ordered that the rectors of neighbouring churches should be present at an inquest concerning assarts in the Forest of Dene: Rot. Parl. i. 200, 317. See also Year Books, 14 Ed. III. 302; and the Dorset suit, below, Note B, 3.

four vills that made the preliminary inquiry before the coroner would often participate in the final trial before the justices.<sup>1</sup> The jury of twelve men of the hundred also had its counterpart in many coroners' inquests. In these inquests, as in the eyre, the twelve jurors brought in their verdict either by themselves or in conjunction with the four vills.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the coroner himself was sometimes requested by the justices to give evidence,<sup>3</sup> which must often have modified the verdict.

Evidence  
produced at  
the coroner's  
inquest

8. There is another way in which the coroner's inquest may have influenced the growth of trial by jury. At some of the inquests evidence of persons not on the jury was taken.<sup>4</sup> The facts so ascertained were entered in the 'rotuli coronatoris' for use before the itinerant justices. The evidence produced at the inquest would also generally be known to the representatives of the townships, and, when they acted in conjunction with the trial jury, would have weight in the final proceedings at the eyre. Thus in the coroner's jury there seems to have been, at least in some cases, a nearer approach to the determination of truth from the evidence of witnesses than in the early petty jury, whose verdict was based on previous knowledge of facts. The coroner's jury may, indeed, be regarded as one of the links uniting the old system of procedure to the modern practice of deciding matters upon the evidence of witnesses openly examined in court.

## VI. The Principle of Representation.

The coron-  
er's jury a  
representa-  
tive body

1. One more phase of our subject deserves attention : namely, the influence of this office upon the principle of representation. The coroner's jury, like all other kinds of juries, was itself a representative body, and its frequent use makes it a conspicuous example of early representation for local purposes. The growth of this principle and its extension to Parliament have been fully considered by such writers as Stubbs and Gneist. I wish here to call attention to the mode of the coroner's election and its bearing upon representation. Throughout the thirteenth century it was the custom, as I have already shown, to elect the county coroners in the full shire court 'with the assent of the whole county.' There were four or two coroners for each county, and they were knights. Here we have an exact counterpart of the

The county  
coroners  
were proto-  
types of the  
parliamen-  
tary knights

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Hund. ii. 308. Cf. Note C, 4.

<sup>2</sup> Above, v. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Pl. of Gl. 11, 98 ; Note Book, ii. 117 ;

Northumb. Rolls, 78. Cf. above, iv. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Pp. 14, 16, 26, 52.

earliest parliamentary knights of the shire, who in the reign of Henry III. were two or four in number, and were chosen in the county court.<sup>1</sup> The machinery for the election of coroners seems to have been the mould which shaped the representation of the shires in Parliament; the coroners were prototypes of the parliamentary knights of the shire. Elected knights of the shire were also employed for other local purposes,<sup>2</sup> but in a more casual or transitory way than in the case of the coroner. This latter office was a permanent institution, which must have helped to habituate the nation to the idea of county representation.

## VII. Modern History of the Coroner.

1. 'Crown's quest law' has not undergone many striking changes in modern times. The Statute 3 Henry VII. c. 2 established a coroner's fee of 13s. 4*d.* for each inquest held upon a person slain; this fee was to be paid from the chattels of the slayer; if he had no chattels, the fee was to be taken out of the amercement which might be imposed upon the township for the escape of the murderer. This law was intended to apply only to cases of violent death or homicide, not to cases of death by misadventure; but in practice the fee was collected for both kinds of inquests until the enactment of the Statute 1 Henry VIII. c. 7, which more clearly defines the Act of 3 Henry VII. In 1752 (25 Geo. II. c. 29) Henry VII.'s system of fees for county coroners was extended, provision being made for their payment out of the county rates. In 1860 (23-24 Vict. c. 116) fees were replaced by a fixed salary. The Statute 6-7 Vict. c. 83 made provision for the appointment of deputies, and forbade the quashing of inquests for technical defects, especially for the omission of certain words in the verdict, such as 'with force and arms,' 'against the peace,' etc. In 1844 (7-8 Vict. c. 92) a law was passed concerning the division of counties into coroners' districts.

2. The most important modern statute relating to the coroner's office is that of 50-51 Vict. c. 71, entitled 'An Act to consolidate the law relating to coroners,' which repeals many of the old statutes.<sup>3</sup> The Local Government Act of 1888 (51 Vict. c. 41, ss. 3, 5) is also a landmark in the history of county coroners, because it enacted that

<sup>1</sup> Stubbs, *Const. History*, §§ 159, 214, 216.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* § 216; *Sel. Charters*, 161, 259, 299.

<sup>3</sup> The third schedule appended to this Act gives a list of most of the statutes relating to this office from Edward I.'s time to 1887.

Fees established under Henry VII.;

extended under Geo. II.

Fixed salary under Victoria

Consolidation Act

Local Government Act

these officers should cease to be elective: their appointment, the determination of their salaries, and the division of counties into coroners' districts were transferred to the county council.

Survival of  
medieval  
features

3. Nevertheless, many ancient features of the office still survive: for example, coroners still have jurisdiction over treasure-trove; <sup>1</sup> they may still act in the place of sheriffs; their tenure and qualifications for office have not been much changed since the thirteenth century; they are still exempt from jury service; 'franchise-coroners' still exist; and the wording of the jury's verdict still has a medieval flavour.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For an inquest in a case of treasure-trove in 1826, see Jervis, *Coroners* (3rd ed.), 343.

<sup>2</sup> For the number of coroners in each county in 1895, their districts, the franchise-coroners, salaries, etc., see *List of Coroners' Jurisdictions in England and Wales* (Statistical Branch, Home Office, June 1895). The modern crowner's quest law is set forth

in John Jervis's *Office and Duties of Coroners* (4th ed. 1880). Much attention is devoted to the subject in Hale's *History of the Pleas of the Crown* and in Hawkins's *Pleas of the Crown*. See also Toulmin Smith, *Report on the Law of England as to the Right Holding of the Coroner's Court* (1859).



NOTE A. *The Coroners of Colchester.*

The following is an extract from Assize Roll 233, mem. 58 (Public Record Office); it is also found in Assize Roll 235, mem. 19.<sup>1</sup> Its bearing on the question of the origin of the office of coroner has already been considered (above, ii. 2).

Placita corone apud Colecestr' die Mercurii<sup>2</sup> in Octab' Sancti Martini anno regni regis Henrici tricesimo nono coram G. de Preston' et sociis suis.

Coroners of Essex since the last eyre

Isti fuerunt coronatores post ultimum iter justic[iariorum] in comitatu isto scilicet Radulphus filius Petri qui obiit et Walterus de Estrete qui remanserit,<sup>3</sup> etc., Radulphus filius Capellani, Johannes filius Elye, Oliverus<sup>4</sup> filius Elie, Saherus du Bacyn<sup>4</sup> et Symon le Clerk et predictus Radulphus filius Capellani qui modo sunt, etc.

Burgesses of Colchester claim that they elect coroners, who are not required to take oath before the justices; by grant of Rich. I.

Burgenses Colecestr' presentant quod ipsi constituere debent de ballivis suis coronatores ad inquisitiones faciendas de morte hominis et omnimoda attachiamenta corone facienda sine presenc[i]a justic[iariorum] qui sacramenta eorundem capiant vel vicecomitis vel alicujus alius ex parte domini regis. Et dicunt quod hoc faciunt ex concessione<sup>5</sup> Ricardi regis<sup>5</sup> avunculi domini regis nunc.

This is contrary to the custom of England

Et quia contra consuetudinem regni Anglie esset quod aliquis officium coronatoris<sup>6</sup> exerceat qui sacramentum quod ad<sup>7</sup> coronatorem faciendum<sup>7</sup> pertinet coram justic[iariis] vel vicecomite in pleno comitatu ad mandatum domini regis non fecerit, ideo inde loquendum.

Loquendum

NOTE B. *The Neighbouring Townships.*

Mutual responsibility in the administration of justice

1. In the middle ages the bond of neighbourhood and the idea of mutual responsibility are prominent factors in the administration of

<sup>1</sup> My attention was called to these rolls by Dr. C. L. Wells, of the University of Minnesota.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 18, 1254. <sup>3</sup> MS. *remanser't*.

<sup>4-4</sup> Assize Roll 235 has *fil' El' Deublacyn*; *Saherus* is omitted.

<sup>5-5</sup> Assize Roll 235 has *domini regis*.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *coron'*. <sup>7-7</sup> MS. *coron' faciend'*.

justice. The police system of medieval England was largely based on the principle of the responsibility of men of the neighbourhood. The hundred was responsible for 'murder' and robbery,<sup>1</sup> the township for homicide committed during the daytime,<sup>2</sup> the frankpledge or tithing for the crimes of its members. These communal liabilities seem to postulate a fully developed system of self-government; but, since the Norman Conquest, the local communities were freely exploited by the strong central government, and became an important source of royal revenue; the townships were amerced for trivial as well as serious offences.

The four  
vills in the  
Anglo-Saxon  
period

2. One form of communal responsibility, namely that of the neighbouring vills, has in the past received little attention from historians.<sup>3</sup> There are some indications that its germ existed in the Anglo-Saxon period. 'If a person robs another, and he proclaims it in three vills ["tuns"], he [the robber] is not to be worthy of peace' (*Æthelred* iii. 15; Schmid, *Gesetze*, 218). 'If a person finds stray cattle or other property, let notice be given [to the neighbouring vills] on three sides that they may be witness of the thing found' (*Wm.* i. 6; Schmid, 329).<sup>4</sup> 'When anyone claims cattle which is in the hands of another, if the latter can prove "per tres partes visneti" that it is of his breeding, then he has disproved the claim' (*Wm.* i. 21; Schmid, 339). 'If a person finds cattle or other property, let him go to the church, and, in the presence of the priest, reeve, and best men of the vill, display what he has found; and let the reeve send to three or four neighbouring vills for the priests and reeves, who are to bring with them four of the best men of each vill; and let the property be displayed to them assembled together' (*Edw. Conf.* 22; Schmid, 505). The '*Leges Edwardi Confessoris*,' c. 19, also describe the activity of the four neighbouring frithborhs.<sup>5</sup> It is difficult to determine whether these rules represent Anglo-Saxon usages or whether most of them were established after the Norman Conquest; the law of *Æthelred* shows, however, that the neighbouring vills acted as legal witnesses among the Anglo-Saxons. In the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries we also meet with examples of neighbouring hundreds combined for judicial purposes.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sel. Charters*, 84, 473; *Abbrev. Placit.* 231. Until recently, the hundred was liable for damages done by riotous assemblies; 7-8 *Geo. IV.* cc. 27, 31; 49-50 *Vict.* c. 38.

<sup>2</sup> *Statutes*, ii. 510-12; *Pollock and Maitland*, i. 551.

<sup>3</sup> Some observations on this subject will be found in a curious essay by William Maurer, entitled 'An Inquiry into Anglo-

Saxon Mark Courts' (London, 1855). His views are difficult to understand. He believes that the four vills formed a judicial or leet district. <sup>4</sup> Cf. *Britton*, i. 67.

<sup>5</sup> See also *Leges Henr.* 9, § 4: 'Omnis causa terminetur vel hundreto vel comitatu vel halimoto . . . vel certis agendorum locis adjacentibus' (Schmid, 442).

<sup>6</sup> *Birch, Cartular.* iii. 369-72; *Chartu-*

3. Our knowledge of the functions of the neighbouring vills is derived mainly from records of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, but no doubt some of these functions were performed also during the century following the Norman Conquest. The Dorset suit of St. Stephen's, Caen (A.D. 1122) forms a link between the Anglo-Saxon and later usage. The suit was to be decided 'in affirmatione virorum de quatuor partibus vicinitatis illius villae'; accordingly, 'sexdecim homines, tres videlicet de Brideport et tres de Bridetona et decem de vicinis juraverunt se veram affirmationem facturos de inquisitione terrae illius.'<sup>1</sup> Probably William the Conqueror and his sons developed or organised this system, as they did that of the frankpledge, from crude germs already existing on English soil; the idea of mutual responsibility is prominent in both institutions. On the Continent various obligations were imposed upon each hundred and each vill,<sup>2</sup> but probably not upon the neighbouring townships.<sup>3</sup>

4. In England the communal duties and responsibilities imposed upon the four<sup>4</sup> neighbouring vills or 'convillatae'<sup>5</sup> collectively were numerous and burdensome. Their obligations at the coroner's inquest and at the eyre have already been considered,<sup>6</sup> and their liability to make presentments in the hundred and county courts will be considered in Note C. They were also called upon to join in the *hue* and cry, to apprehend and take charge of felons, to lead them to gaol and even to the gallows;<sup>7</sup> to receive the head of a culprit who had been

lary of Ramsey, i. 148; Abbrev. Placit. 334; Palgrave, Commonwealth, ii. 183. Cf. Cnut, ii. 22; Sel. Charters, 72. For the Continent, see Brunner, Schwurgerichte, 109, 111.

<sup>1</sup> Palgrave, Commonwealth, ii. 183; Round, Feudal England, 122. For a very interesting example early in the thirteenth century, see the case of the prior of Lenton, above v. 7, note.

<sup>2</sup> Waitz, Verfassungsgesch. i. 493-5; Brunner, Forschungen, 447-451, and Rechtsgesch. ii. 227; Sel. Charters, 69; Pollock and Maitland, i. 67, n. 7.

<sup>3</sup> The nearest approach to anything resembling English usage in Germany will be found in Sachsenspiegel, i. 55, § 2: the men of at least three villages should take part in electing a judge to try criminals caught red-handed. My attention has also been called to the 'þriggja hreppa þingstadur,' the court of the three villages, which seems to have been in common use in Iceland; B. K. Kålund, Bidrag til en historisk-topografisk Beskrivelse af Island, i. 198, 237, 389.

<sup>4</sup> This is the usual number, but some-

times three, five, or more, are mentioned. When five or more are named, two of them are often regarded as one, both belonging to the same parish: pp. 3-18, 23, 24, etc.

<sup>5</sup> This term is used on p. 92.

<sup>6</sup> Above, v. 1-7.

<sup>7</sup> Pp. 7, 18, 65, 71, 99, 100; Rot. Hund. ii. 306; Sel. Charters, 363, 371, 474; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 127, x. 16, 24; Abbrev. Placit. 107, 203; Northumb. Rolls, 84-100, 114, 342. Several cases in Coroner's Roll 188, mem. 4, have this statement: 'Et dictus A. statim fugit et homines quatuor villatarum propinquiorum secuti fuerunt eum de vill' ad vill' per totum comitatum et non potuerunt eum comprehendere.' Roll 235, mem. 1, 4 Rich. II.: 'Et predicti Johannes de Lethelay et Johannes del Scales [who had killed R.] non reddiderunt se vicecomiti neque predictis [quatuor] villatis.' Roll 233, mem. 21 d., 4 Rich. II.: 'Et predictus Joh' Bele super dictam feloniam captus fuit et ductus ad gaolam domini regis castri Ebor' per [quatuor] villatas predictas.' In Rich. II.'s reign the harbourer of a murderer was detained by the four vills: Roll 236, mem. 15.

The Dorset  
suit, A.D.  
1122

Origin of  
the system

Its absence  
on the Con-  
tinent

Duties of  
the four vills

decapitated by summary justice; <sup>1</sup> to hold and account to the king for deodands and the lands and chattels of felons; <sup>2</sup> to watch any person who had fled to sanctuary, and to be present at his abjuration of the realm; <sup>3</sup> to send for the coroner when a sudden death occurred; <sup>4</sup> to guard the dead body until the coroner came, and to be present at the view and burial; <sup>5</sup> to make good the loss incurred by merchants of the staple through the unlawful seizure of their goods; <sup>6</sup> to repair hedges, bridges, dikes, and ditches; <sup>7</sup> to appraise and take charge of wrecks on behalf of the king.<sup>8</sup> In some cases the four vills went surety for the finder of a body; <sup>9</sup> and in Yorkshire a thief caught with the mainour was adjudged to death 'coram quatuor villatis.'<sup>10</sup> Most of these functions might be performed either by the neighbouring townships or by a single township instead of four.<sup>11</sup> Whether the obligation or liability rested in a given case upon one or four vills, appears to have been determined by no general rule. In boroughs, parishes or wards took the place of vills.<sup>12</sup>

Why four  
vills were  
used

5. It is impossible to say why reference should usually be made to just four townships. It has been conjectured that 'the underlying notion is that they are the four quarters, east, west, north, and south of the neighbourhood.'<sup>13</sup> This may have been the original idea, but the vills were not usually taken from the four points of the compass in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. They commonly belonged to the same hundred,<sup>14</sup> but this was not always the case.<sup>15</sup>

#### NOTE C. *The County Court. Appeals and Presentments.*

Lack of  
knowledge  
concerning  
the hundred  
and county  
courts

1. The historians of English institutions have little to say regarding the jurisdiction and functions of the hundred and county courts in the middle ages.<sup>23</sup> The coroners' rolls throw much light upon the

<sup>1</sup> P. 76.

<sup>2</sup> Pp. 6, 96, 98, 100; Rolls 144, 146, 239; Statutes, i. 40, 41, 58; Britton, i. 11, 35, 45.

<sup>3</sup> Pp. 29, 37, 38, 58, 66-69, 75, 103; Northumb. Rolls, 125; Sel. Pleas, 86; Britton, i. 17, 63; Norfolk Archaeology, vii. 266; Rot. Hund. i. 386; Revue Historique, vol. 50, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Pp. 5, 99, 100.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Hund. i. 500, 515. 'Visus fuit per coronatorem et quatuor villatas propinquiores': Rolls, 115-6. Vills were often amerced because they buried a person without view of the coroner: Northumb. Rolls, 73, 100, 107, 119; cf. Britton, i. 81; Bracton, ii. 390. In 1231 the coroner and several vills exhumed a body: Note Book, ii. 402.

<sup>6</sup> Statutes, i. 335.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. i. 94; Abbrev. Placit. 213, 339; Maitland, Court Baron, 88.

<sup>8</sup> Abbrev. Placit. 133; Rot. Parl. i. 164; cf. Mirror of Justices (Selden Soc.), p. 32.

<sup>9</sup> Pp. 117, 122-3; other examples in Rolls 236, 241.

<sup>10</sup> Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 545.

<sup>11</sup> Pp. 2, 29, 37, 66, 67, 82, 87, 109, etc.; Northumb. Rolls, 71-76, 83, 91, 110-113, 125, 349, 374-8; Britton, i. 43, 44; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 535; Pollock and Maitland, i. 550-2.

<sup>12</sup> Norfolk Archaeology, vii. 266; above, v. 1. <sup>13</sup> Pollock and Maitland, ii. 641.

<sup>14</sup> P. 42. <sup>15</sup> P. 73, n. 3.

<sup>16</sup> A monograph on this subject is being



criminal side of the proceedings in the county courts (the 'placita coronae'). Here, in the presence of the coroner, persons were bound over to keep the peace,<sup>1</sup> and appeals of felony and presentments were regularly made; here, too, the process of exigent and outlawry took its course.

2. Appeals of felony were normally begun before the coroner in the monthly county court without any writ.<sup>2</sup> We are told that this kind of suit 'ys long and costlowe, that yt makyth the partie very to sue.'<sup>3</sup> If the appellee did not appear, he was called or 'exacted' in the four successive county courts following that in which the appeal was first made. If at the fourth court he did not present himself or find sureties to appear at the fifth, he was outlawed in presence of the coroner. If he found sureties at the fourth but failed to appear at the fifth court, sentence of outlawry was pronounced.<sup>4</sup> An appellee who appeared at any session of the court was held for trial or produced pledges to appear before the royal justices.<sup>5</sup> A person might also be exacted and outlawed in the county court as the result of an indictment before the king's justices.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, an appeal might be removed by a royal writ to the king's court.<sup>7</sup>

3. The coroners' rolls contain many good examples of the set form of words in which appeals were made,<sup>8</sup> for the appeal had to be brought 'par motz a ceo ordeyneez.'<sup>9</sup> The appellor had to 'set forth the words orderly without any omission';<sup>10</sup> a slight deviation from the prescribed form—for example, the omission of the time or place or the nature of the wound—might be made the ground for an exception, and might lead to the quashing of the appeal.<sup>11</sup>

4. Presentments formed another important item of business in the county court. Deaths due to violence or to accident were here

prepared by Dr. C. L. Wells of the University of Minnesota.

<sup>1</sup> Pp. 33-38; Sel. Pleas, 77.

<sup>2</sup> Pp. 2, 11, 18-23, 31-34, 64-65, 71, 118, 123, 125; Abbrev. Placit. 264, 279; Bracton, ii. 426, 543; Britton, i. 18, 109-12; Sel. Pleas, 19; Pollock and Maitland, ii. 579. Appeals were sometimes begun in the hundred court: Bracton, ii. 504; Note Book, iii. 550-1; Sel. Pleas, 6, 68-70.

<sup>3</sup> Statute 3 Henry VII. c. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Pp. 3, 20, 23, 27-32, 62-65, 71-73, 77, 78, 118; Bracton, ii. 309, 315; Britton, i. 50, 52; Fleta, fol. 40; Abbrev. Placit. 148, 264, 312; cf. Pollock and Maitland, ii. 578-9. Britton's statement regarding the proceedings at the fourth and fifth courts is more accurate than Bracton's. Rolls 15, 16, 19, 51, 54, 56, 65, 172, 175, 176, 179 b, 256, are devoted wholly or mainly to exi-

gents and sentences of outlawry.

<sup>5</sup> Pp. 3, 23, 34, 35. Cf. Abbrev. Placit. 279; Sel. Pleas, 78, 99; Salt Soc. xiv. 8.

<sup>6</sup> Pp. 27, 28, 58, 62, 77, 116-8. In all cases, outlawry had to be pronounced in the coroner's presence. 'Nec videbatur sectoribus comitatus quod ipsos utlagare possent sine presencia coronatoris': Abbrev. Placit. 148-9. Cf. Britton, i. 52, 54.

<sup>7</sup> Pp. 20, 21, 65, 72, 86; cf. Abbrev. Placit. 184, 279.

<sup>8</sup> Pp. 18-23, 64, 65, 71. Most of the appeals in the coroners' rolls are in Anglo-French.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. i. 101: 'de asser les paroles ordineement sauntz omission.'

<sup>11</sup> Abbrev. Placit. 221, 305, 519; Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 520; Salt Soc. vi. pt. i. 127; Fleta, bk. i.; and the references below in note 4, p. 18.

Appeals in the county court

Exigent

Outlawry

Form of appeal

Presentments in the county court;

## Casus

The jury  
says that she  
went with a  
scoop to the  
well to draw  
water; she  
slipped, fell  
into the well,  
and was  
drowned.

The well is  
to be stopped  
or closed.

Baptiste per sacramentum Nicholai de Schorp, Johannis Blower, Thome Soumain, Johannis de Steyngate, Johannis Soet, Wyulelmi<sup>1</sup> Emmes, Johannis Lacy, Willelmi Fyched, Andree de Lound, Johannis de Overhous, Roberti le Deye et Bartholomei le Heuward. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod dicto die Mercurii anno supra dicto ora meridiana predicta Margareta ivit cum quadam stoppa precii j. d. ad predictum fontem ad tractandum aquam infra clausum predictum et casu fortune seppitavit<sup>2</sup> et cecidit in fonte predicto et submersit<sup>3</sup> et nullus de morte ipsius Margarete male creditur. Et preceptum est predicto Roberto de Weston fontem predictum extupare<sup>4</sup> sub pena dimidie marce. Balif' de hundredo predicto respondebit de dicta<sup>5</sup> stoppa.

## Inventor

Proximi  
Wicini

Simon de Weston', plegii<sup>6</sup> Johannes Soet, Johannes<sup>7</sup> Drag'.  
Robertus Wylde, pl' Johannes  
Loc, Robertus Beye.  
Willelmus Mathyld, pl' Johannes  
Robert, Willelmus Fayrman.  
Johannes Soet, pl' Robard<sup>9</sup> Man',  
Willelmus Mayln.  
Robertus<sup>10</sup> Weron', pl' Johannes  
Abot, Johannes Rande.

Englecheria ex parte patris testatur per Johannem<sup>7</sup> Man' cognatum suum<sup>8</sup> et ex parte matris per Robertum Gete cognatum.

<sup>1</sup> Reading doubtful; MS. *Wyul'i*.

<sup>2</sup> Probably for *cespitavit*; cf. p. 42.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *submert*.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *extūpe*; cf. pp. 42, 82. For the coroner's duty in this matter, see Hale,

Hist. of Pleas of the Crown, ii. 62.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *dicto*.

<sup>7</sup> MS. *Johannis* here and throughout this part of the entry.

<sup>9</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *pl'*.

<sup>8</sup> MS. *sua*.

<sup>10</sup> MS. *Roberti*.

# CORONERS' ROLLS

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1.

### HUNDREDA DE BEREฟอร์ด.

CONTIGIT apud Bereford in crastino S. Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis xlix. quod Henricus filius Johannis de Britteville de Bereford etate decem [?] annorum per vespervas ivit ludendo in curia dicti Johannis patris sui et cecidit in quodam fossato et submersit se per infortunium. Et Johannes pater ejus recenter quesivit eum et invenit ipsum [et]<sup>2</sup> levavit ipsum de aqua et credebatur salvare eum, non potuit set statim obiit. Predictus Johannes invenit plegios Johannem de Bluenham de Bereford et Robertum de Bolenhurst de eadem.

Inquisicio facta coram G. Roulaund coronatore per iiij. villatas propinquiores, Bereford, Rockesdone, Ronhale, Wildene, qui<sup>3</sup> dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi infortunium sicut predictum est.

Sutbiry

Contigit super pontem qui vocatur Hailebruge sub villa de Sutbiry inter limites comit' Huntingdon' et Bed' die Sabati<sup>4</sup> Petri ad Vincula sero inter canem et lupum anno regni regis Henrici xlix. quod Margeria uxor Thome de Bichhamstide, Margareta soror sua, et Johannes filius ejusdem Thome venerunt de foro S. Neoti ad maladriam de Sutbiry, et ibi venit<sup>5</sup> Johannes filius Ricardi Herebert de Game-logethe et Helevisa de Auboldesle concubina ejusdem Johannis et Willelmus filius Nicholai Prechur de Huntingdone clericus et Editha soror ejusdem Willelmi, et insultaverunt predictos Margeriam et

<sup>1</sup> Roll 46, five membranes, 49-56 Henry III. Endorsement of mem. 1: 'Rotulus G. Rouland coron' hundr' de Bereford;' after 'coron' a later hand has added 'in com' Huntingdon' et Bed' ann' r' r' Henrici fil' reg' Joh', 49°, 50°, 51°, 52°, 53°, 54°, 55° et 56°.' Mem. 5 is endorsed in the original hand: 'Hundr' de Bereford.' In the Record Office Roll 46 is labelled 'Huntingdon,' but there are only casual

references to that county; the roll should form No. 1 of the series; all the cases belong to Bedfordshire. Many of the cases on mem. 3-5 are also on Roll 2; the latter roll is referred to in the following footnotes as B.

<sup>2</sup> Et or some other word seems to have been erased. <sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> Sic; perhaps the scribe meant to write *Sancti*. <sup>5</sup> Sic.



## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

### HUNDRED OF BARFORD.

It happened at Barford on the morrow<sup>1</sup> of St. James the Apostle in the forty-ninth year of King Henry, son of King John, that Henry, son of John of Brettville of Barford, who was ten years of age, went at vespers into his father's yard to play, and fell into a ditch and was accidentally drowned. His father promptly searched for him and found him, and lifted him out of the water and thought to save him; he did not succeed in doing this; the son died immediately [after being taken out of the water]. The said John found pledges:<sup>2</sup> John of Blunham of Barford and Robert of Bolnhurst of the same place.

Inquest was made before G. Rowland, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Barford, Roxton, Renhold, Wilden; they say that, as far they know, it was an accident, as is aforesaid.

Sudbury It happened on the bridge called Hailbridge below the vill of Sudbury upon the boundary of the counties of Huntingdon and Bedford at twilight on Saturday the feast of St. Peter's Chains, in the forty-ninth year of King Henry,<sup>3</sup> that Margery wife of Thomas of Beechamstead, Margaret her sister, and John son of the said Thomas were on their way from the market of St. Neots to the lepers' hospital at Sudbury; and there [on the bridge] John son of Richard Herbert of Gamlingay, Helewise of Auboldesle<sup>4</sup> John's concubine, William son of Nicholas Preacher of Huntingdon clerk, and Edith sister of the said William came and assaulted the said Margery,

<sup>1</sup> July 26, 1265.

<sup>2</sup> The finder of the body must produce pledges for his appearance before the itinerant justices, if the felony or death occurred

out of a dwelling-house (Britton, ff. 5 b, 7; Bracton, fol. 121 b).

<sup>3</sup> August 1, 1265.

<sup>4</sup> Abbotsley (?)

Margaretam et Johannem filium Thome et <sup>1</sup> voluerunt <sup>1</sup> robiare eos. Tandem huttesium fuit levatum et prosecutum usque ad villam de Sutbiry. Et dicti felones fugierunt <sup>2</sup> usque ad dictum pontem et ibi venit Willelmus bercarius domini Willelmi de Sutbiri ad huttesium, et predictus Johannes filius predicti Ricardi Herebert percussit dictum Willelmum Bercarium cum uno fauchun super dictum pontem in dextra parte capitis et amputavit partem capitis cum cerebro et auriculam dextram ita quod statim obiit super dictum pontem. Villata <sup>3</sup> de Sutbyri venit cum huttesio et ceperunt <sup>4</sup> predictum Johannem felonem et dictam Helewisam et Editham sororem predicti [<sup>5</sup> Willelmi le <sup>5</sup>] Prechur. Et Willelmus filius Nicholai le Prechur fugit ad ecclesiam de Dodingtone in comitatu Huntidon'.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. [<sup>5</sup>villatas propinquiores,<sup>5</sup>] Sutbiri, Etone, Wibauestone, Colmorth. Villa de Sutbiry dicit quod predictus Johannes occidit dictum Willelmum Bercarium cum predicto fauchun. Etone dicit quod predictus Johannes Herebert et Willelmus le Prechour occiderunt Willelmum Bercarium predictum. Wibauestone et Colmmorth idem dicunt sicut Etone. Dicunt etiam quod dicti felones nulla habuerunt catalla in comitatu Bed'. Galfridus filius Eustachii invenit Willelmum Bercarium primo mortuum et invenit plegios Michaellem Page de Sutbiri et Alanum filium Walteri. Precium fauchun xij.d. et liberatur vill' de Sutbiri.

xij. d.

Apellum.  
Etone

Ricardus de Eltesle de parochia de Etone venit ad comitatum Bed' die Lune proxima post Epiphaniam anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> et appellavit Willelmum Moring de Stapello eo quod ipse die Dominica prox' post Natale Domini citra horam vespertinam venit in domum dicti Ricardi et ipsum nequiter et in feloniam contra pacem domini regis et insultu premeditato insultavit dictum Ricardum et ipsum percussit cum quodam baculo de salice super humerum dextrum ita quod ipsum prostravit ad terram, et postea cecidit super dictum Ricardum et cepit digitum qui vocatur index juxta pollicem <sup>6</sup> in manu dextra et morsit dictum digitum ita quod credit maimiari. Hoc offert probare racionabiliter et disracionare sicut homo <sup>7</sup> maimiatus potest et debet secundum quod curia domini regis consideraverit. Dictus Ricardus invenit plegios de proseguendo Henricum de Basingges <sup>8</sup> de Stapello et Johannem Poynaunt de eadem.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post Purificacionem

<sup>1-1</sup> MS. *voluerunt et et voluerunt.*

<sup>2</sup> Sic here and in many other passages in these rolls.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *vill'.*

<sup>5-5</sup> Illegible.

<sup>7</sup> MS. *homa.*

<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>8</sup> MS. *Dasingges.*

Margaret, and John son of Thomas, and tried to rob them. At length the hue was raised and pursued to the vill of Sudbury. The said felons then fled [back] to the said bridge, and William, the shepherd of Sir William of Sudbury, came there in answer to the hue; and on that bridge the said John, Richard Herbert's son, struck William the Shepherd with a sword on the right side of his head and cut away a portion of his head with the brains and the right ear, so that he died forthwith on the said bridge. The township of Sudbury came with the hue and arrested John the felon, Helewise, and Edith, William Preacher's sister; and William, Nicholas Preacher's son, fled to the church of Diddington in the county of Huntingdon.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Sudbury, Eaton, Wyboston, Colmworth. The township of Sudbury says that John [Herbert] killed William Shepherd with the said sword. Eaton says that John Herbert and William Preacher killed the said William Shepherd. Wyboston and Colmworth say the same as Eaton. They also say that the felons have no chattels in the county of Bedford. Geoffrey, son of Eustace, who first found William Shepherd dead, produces pledges: Michael Page of Sudbury and Alan, Walter's son. The sword is worth twelve pence, and it is delivered to the township of Sudbury.<sup>1</sup>

Eaton

Richard of Eltisley of the parish of Eaton came to the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the Epiphany in the fiftieth year of King Henry and appealed William Moring of Staplehoe, for that on Sunday<sup>3</sup> next after Christmas before the hour of vespers he came into Richard's house and assaulted him wickedly, feloniously, against the king's peace, and with premeditated assault, and striking him on the right shoulder with a willow stick felled him to the ground; then he sprang upon Richard, and seizing his index finger (next the thumb) with his right hand bit the said finger, so that [Richard] believes himself to be maimed. This he offers reasonably to prove and deraign, just as a maimed man can and ought, and as the court of the king shall award. The said Richard found pledges to prosecute: Henry of Basing and John Poignant, both of Staplehoe.

At the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after Candle-

<sup>1</sup> The township to which a deodand or the chattels of a felon were committed would account for them at the Eyre (*Year Book*, 30-31 Edw. I., 535; *Statutes of the*

*Realm*, i. 40; Pollock and Maitland, *Hist. of English Law*, ii. 471).

<sup>2</sup> Jan. 11, 1266.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 27, 1265.

<sup>4</sup> Feb. 8, 1266.

Beate Marie Ricardus venit et sequitur et dictus Willelmus primo interrogatus non venit.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum S. Mathie Apostoli anno 1<sup>o</sup> predictus Ricardus venit et sequitur et Willelmus Moring secundo interrogatus non venit.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum Annunciacionis Beate Marie anno predicto Ricardus venit et sequitur, et Willelmus Moring presens totum defendit et invenit plegios Reginaldum filium Galfridi de Honidone et Willelmum Aleyn de Stapelho.

Ravenesdene

Contigit in campo in quodam loco qui vocatur Nomanneslond die Lune prox' ante Cathedram S. Petri post prandium quod Alfredus de Ravenesdene ivit seminando terram suam et venit ad predictum locum et habuit morbum caducum et cecidit de dicto morbo et subito obiit per infortunium. Et Isabella filia Johannis de Ravenesdene invenit eum primo et invenit plegios Walterum filium Alfred de Ravenesdene et Arnulphum Argent de eadem.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. villatas propinquiores, Ravenesdene, Ronhale, Wildene, Bollenhurst et Goldington, que dicunt quod nihil sciunt nisi per infortunium ut predictum est.

Goldington

Contigit in regia via inter Goudington<sup>1</sup> et Bedeford die Dominica prox' ante festum Sancti Laurencii anno 1<sup>o</sup>. . . .

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. villatas propinquiores, Goldington, Ronhale, Ravenesdene pro una villata, et Bereford, que dicunt quod dictus Galfridus cum auxilio et forcia<sup>2</sup> dicti ingnoti occidit dictum Radulphum ut predictum est. Ideo preceptum est quod predictus Galfridus capiatur. Nulla habuerunt catalla.

Bereford

Contigit apud Bereford die Dominica prox' ante festum S. Bartholomei circa horam cubacionis anno 1<sup>o</sup> quod Henricus Colburn de Bereford exivit de domo sua in Bereford ad bibendum unam ollatam cervisie et eadem nocte non rediit, set in crastino summo mane Angnes Colburn mater sua quesivit eum et invenit dictum Henricum mortuum etulneratum in corpore circa cor et in ventre vij. plagas eum cultello

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> As to the meaning of this word see Maitland, *Scl. Pleas of the Crown*, p. 3.

mas Richard comes and sues, and the said William is exacted the first time, but does not appear.

At the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the fiftieth year Richard comes and sues, and William is exacted the second time, but does not appear.

At the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after Lady Day in the aforesaid year Richard comes and sues. William Moring, who is present, denies all and finds pledges : Reginald, son of Geoffrey of Honeydon, and William Allein of Staplehoe.

Ravensden

It happened in a field in a certain place called Nomansland on Monday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Peter's Chair that Alfred of Ravensden went after dinner to sow his land, and when he came to the said place, he had the falling sickness which caused him to fall to the ground, and he suddenly died by misadventure. Isabel, daughter of John of Ravensden, who first found him, produced pledges : Walter, son of Alfred of Ravensden, and Arnulph Argent of the same place.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Ravensden, Renhold, Wilden, Bolnhurst, and Goldington ; they say that, as far as they know, death was due to misadventure, as is aforesaid.

Goldington

It happened in the king's highway between Goldington and Bedford on Sunday<sup>4</sup> next before the feast of St. Lawrence in the fiftieth year [that three persons quarrelled, and one of them was killed].

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Goldington, Renhold and Ravensden as one township, and Barford ; they say that the said Geoffrey with the aid and force of the said unknown person killed Ralph, as is aforesaid. Therefore it is ordered that the said Geoffrey be arrested. They had no chattels.

Barford

It happened at Barford on Sunday<sup>5</sup> next before the feast of St. Bartholomew about bed-time in the fiftieth year that Henry Colburn of Barford went forth from his house in Barford to drink a pot of beer and did not return on that night. Early in the morning Agnes Colburn, his mother, searched for him and found him dead ; his body had seven wounds about the heart and in the belly, manifestly made

<sup>1</sup> March 1, 1266.

<sup>2</sup> March 29, 1266.

<sup>3</sup> Feb. 15, [1266].

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 8, 1266.

<sup>5</sup> Aug. 22, 1266.



ut patebat et in capite iiij. plagas cum una hachia a pik ut patet et in gorgia et in mentona et in capite usque ad cerebrum. Statim predicta Angnes levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum, et invenit plegios Unfridum Quarel et Thomam Quarel de eadem Bereford.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Bereford, Rockesdene, Wildene, Ronhale, que dicunt quod Gilbertus filius Margarete occidit dictum Henricum ut predictum est. Dicunt eciam quod habent<sup>1</sup> suspeccionem versus Hugonem Cointerel et Angnetem Cointerel et Hugonem filium dicte Angnetis et Aliciam Wreng qui venerunt in pleno comitatu et liberantur<sup>2</sup> G. Ruffo vicecomiti ad gayholam.

|        |   |  |   |             |
|--------|---|--|---|-------------|
| Vicini | { | Unfridus Quarel invenit plegios Thomam Quarel et Willelmum Culbel.             | } | De Bereford |
|        |   | Milo de Bereford invenit plegios Johannem de Brutevile et Henricum Cointerel.  |   |             |
|        |   | Radulphus filius Hugonis invenit plegios Willelmum Bus et Henricum Mercatorem. |   |             |
|        |   | Johannes Clericus invenit plegios Johannem de Bluenham et Galfridum Malirbe.   |   |             |

Gilebertus nulla habuit catalla.

Englecheria presentata per Ricardum fratrem suum ex parte patris et matris et Mauricium Plane awunculum ex parte patris.

Wiklene

Contigit in villa de Wildene die Mercurii prox' ante festum Simonis et Jude anno 1<sup>o</sup> quod malefactores ingnoti venerunt ad domum Jordani de le Hulle de Wildene et fregerunt dictam domum, dictus Jordanus absens. Et dicti malefactores whneraverunt Angnetem uxorem dicti Jordani, et Emnam<sup>3</sup> filiam suam etate viij. annorum occiderunt. Postea omnia bona domus asportaverunt. Et vixerunt per viij. dies et tunc obierunt.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Wildene, Colmmorthe, Ravenesdene et Bereford, que dicunt sicut predictum est et quod malefactores ingnoti fuerunt.

Divelho

Contigit in uno hamello qui vocatur Divelho in parochia de Etone in vigilia S. Johannis Baptiste anno 1<sup>o</sup> quod . . . Et inde postea sanatus fuit et per aliam infirmitatem que vocatur fluxus ventris

<sup>1</sup> MS. *h'int.*

<sup>2</sup> MS. *lib'.*

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

with a knife, and four in the head manifestly made with a pickaxe, and [other wounds] in the throat and on the chin and in the head as far as the brain. Agnes at once raised the hue and pursuit was made. Her pledges were Humphrey Quarrel and Thomas Quarrel, both of Barford.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Barford, Roxton, Wilden, Renhold. They say that Gilbert, Margaret's son, killed Henry, as is aforesaid. They also say that they suspect Hugh Cointerel, Agnes Cointerel, Hugh son of the said Agnes, and Alice Wreng, who came to the full county court and were delivered to G. Read, the sheriff, to be put in gaol.

|            |   |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Neighbours | { | Humphrey Quarrel found pledges : Thomas Quarrel and William Culbel.     | } | Of Barford |
|            |   | Milo of Barford found pledges : John of Brettville and Henry Cointerel. |   |            |
|            |   | Ralph, Hugh's son, found pledges : William Buss and Henry Merchant.     |   |            |
|            |   | John Clerk found pledges : John of Blunham and Geoffrey Malherbe.       |   |            |
|            |   |   |   |            |

Gilbert had no chattels. Englishry<sup>1</sup> was presented by Richard, [Henry's] brother, on his father's and mother's side, and by Maurice Plane, his uncle, on his father's side.

Wilden

It happened in the township of Wilden on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of Simon and Jude in the fiftieth year that unknown evil-doers came to the house of Jordan Hull of Wilden and broke into the said house while he was absent. And they wounded Agnes, his wife, and killed Emma, his daughter, who was eight years of age. Afterwards they carried away all the goods found in the house. They [Agnes and Emma] lived eight days and then died.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Wilden, Colmworth, Ravensden, and Barford; they say as is aforesaid, and that the evil-doers were unknown.

Devillhoe

It happened in a hamlet called Devillhoe in the parish of Eaton on the eve<sup>3</sup> of St. John the Baptist in the fiftieth year that [two men fell into a pit, and one accidentally wounded the other]. Afterwards, having recovered from his wound, he suffered from a disease called

<sup>1</sup> There were various customs in different counties regarding the presentment of Englishry (Bracton, fol. 135; Britton, fol. 7). <sup>2</sup> Oct. 27, 1266. <sup>3</sup> June 23, 1266.





languit usque in crastinum S. Hillari anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> primo, et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et tunc obiit. Et pro dubio dicte lesionis villate <sup>1</sup> mandaverunt coronatorem.<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio facta coram G. Roulaund coronatore per iiij. vill' propinq' scilicet Etone, Wibaudestone, Chalvesterne et Colesdene pro una villata, et Sutbiry, que dicunt quod sanatus fuit de dicta lesione et quod non obiit de dicta lesione set per infirmitatem predictam. Tamen preceptum est quod dictus Johannes atachietur.

Colmorth

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Colmmorthe, Wildene, Chalvesterne, Wybaudestone, que dicunt sicut predictum est, et nichil sciunt nisi infortunium.

Colmorth

Contigit apud Colworthe<sup>3</sup> die Jovis prox' ante Dominicam Palmarum anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod Emma filia Gileberti Carectarii etate duorum annorum ivit ludendo in via et cecidit in quodam fossato et per infortunium submersit se. Et Alicia mater ejus invenit eam primo et invenit plegios Willelmum Carectarium et Willelmum Neweman de Colmworthe.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Colmorth, Stouttone, Wildene et Bollenhurst, que dicunt quod nichil aliud sciunt nisi infortunium.

Rouhale

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Ravenesdene, Wildene, Bereford, Goldington, que dicunt quod malefactores ignoti fuerunt.

Etone

Contigit apud Etone die Jovis prox' post festum Apostolorum Petri et Palli<sup>4</sup> anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod Reginaldus Stad de Etone messor Johannis Fraunceis ivit in pratis de Etone ad pratum domini sui custodiendum et habuit morbum caducum et cecidit et statim obiit

<sup>1</sup> MS. vill'.

<sup>2</sup> MS. coron'.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.

the flux, until the morrow of St. Hilary in the fifty-first year of King Henry; he had the rites of the church,<sup>1</sup> and then he died. And, owing to doubt concerning the wound, the townships sent for the coroner.

Inquest was made before G. Rowland, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Chawston and Coldsden as one township, and Sudbury; they say that he recovered from the said wound, that he did not die of the wound, but of the aforesaid disease. Nevertheless, it was ordered that John be attached.

Colmworth

[An old woman begging bread in Colmworth was drowned on Friday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Hilary, 51 Henry III. Her son found her and produced two pledges.]

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Colmworth, Wilden, Chawston, Wyboston; they say as is aforesaid, and, as far as they know, it was an accident.

Colmworth

It happened at Colmworth, on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next before Palm Sunday in the fifty-first year that Emma, daughter of Gilbert Carter, who was two years of age, went to play in the street and, falling into a ditch, was drowned by misadventure. And Alice, her mother, who first found her, produced pledges: William Carter and William Newman of Colmworth.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Colmworth, Staughton, Wilden, and Bohnhurst; they say that, as far as they know, it was an accident.

Renhold

[Evil-doers, who had broken into a house, killed one person and fatally wounded two others, on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next before the feast of St. Dunstan, 51 Henry III.]

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Ravensden, Wilden, Barford, Goldington; they say that the evil-doers were unknown.

Eaton

It happened at Eaton, on Thursday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the fifty-first year that Reginald Stead of Eaton, reaper of John Francis, went into the meadows of Eaton to look after the meadow of his lord, and he had the falling sickness and

<sup>1</sup> If the deceased had the rites of the church, the finder of the body was not required to produce sureties; the deceased lived long enough to exculpate the finder if

the latter was innocent (*Year Book*, 30-31 Edw. I., 522; cf. Bracton, fol. 135).

<sup>2</sup> Jan. 14, 1267.

<sup>3</sup> April 7, 1267.

<sup>4</sup> May 12, 1267.

<sup>5</sup> June 30, 1267.

per infortunium. Alicia uxor sua primo invenit eundem et invenit plegios Galfridum de Herdewik de Wibauestone et Ricardum de Sutbiry de eadem.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores scilicet Etone, Wibauestone, Sutbiry, Coumorthie, que dicunt quod obiit de predicto morbo per infortunium, et nichil aliut sciunt.

. . . . .

Bereford

Contigit in villa de Bereford die Veneris prox' ante Assumpeionem Beate Marie anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> primo ad domum Willelmi Blaunche quod Muriela filia dicti Willelmi etate fere vj. annorum et Beatrix soror sua etate fere trium annorum [. . .],<sup>1</sup> et dictus Willelmus et Muriel uxor sua fuerunt in campum et ignis assendit<sup>2</sup> in predicta domo et conbussit<sup>3</sup> dictam domum et Beatricem filiam dicti Willelmi infantem conbussit.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Wildene, Ronhale, Bereford, Rockesdone, qui<sup>4</sup> dicunt quod nichil aliut sciunt nisi infortunium sicut predictum est.

Ronhale.  
Mem. 2

Contigit in villa de Ronhale anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo ad domum Simonis Ruffi die Sancti Petri ad Vincula quod Rogerus de Bemfeld et Andreas Beufrere de . . . seye<sup>5</sup> et alii felones et latrones duodecim vel plures venerunt ad domum Simonis Ruffi inter canem et lupum et intraverunt et ipsum Simonem in domo sua invenerunt, et statim predicti malefactores cum gladiis sine loquela insultaverunt et ipsum percusserunt super brachium sinistrum inter umeros cum uno macio de quivere, et Matildam filiam Simonis percusserunt in femore dextro et Johannem filium dicti Simonis inter cubitum<sup>6</sup> et manum cum una sagittaulneraverunt fere per medium brach'. Tandem predictus Johannes percepit quod Simonem patrem suum et ipsum et Matildam sororem suam et totam familiam ejusdem domus interficere vellent,

<sup>1</sup> Some words seem to be omitted.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>5</sup> A hole in the MS.; a part of the word is wanting.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *cutum*.

and fell down and died at once by misadventure. Alice, his wife, who first found him, produced pledges: Geoffrey of Hardwick and Richard of Sudbury, both of Wyboston.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Eaton, Wyboston, Sudbury, Colmworth; they say that, as far as they know, he died of the said sickness by misadventure.

Cadbury [On Friday, July 22, 1267, a woman was fatally injured by falling into boiling water. She died after having had the rites of the church. At the inquest before G. Rowland four neighbouring townships—Eaton, Sudbury, Colmworth, and Wyboston—say that, as far as they know, death was due to misadventure. Richard Brewer and two others, who helped him take her from the water, produce pledges. The deodand is appraised and delivered to the townships.]

Barford It happened in the vill of Barford on Friday<sup>1</sup> next before the Assumption of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-first year of King Henry at the house of William Blanche that Muriel, his daughter, who was almost six years old, and Beatrice, her sister, who was almost three years old [were in the house] while the said William and Muriel, his wife, were in the fields, and a fire broke out in the said house and burned it, together with Beatrice, William's infant daughter.

Inquest was made by four neighbouring townships, Wilden, Renhold, Barford, Roxton; they say that, as far as they know, it was a misadventure, as is aforesaid.

Renhold It happened in the vill of Renhold in the fifty-first year on the day of St. Peter's Chains<sup>2</sup> that Roger of Benfield, Andrew Beufrere of [Arlsey], and twelve or more other felons and thieves came to the house of Simon Read at twilight and entered; they found Simon in his house, and forthwith the said evil-doers without a word assaulted him with swords, and struck him with a copper mace upon the left arm [and] between the shoulders, and struck Matilda, Simon's daughter, in the right thigh, and they wounded John, his son, with an arrow between the elbow and the hand, almost through the middle of the forearm. At length, when John saw that they intended to kill his father, himself, his sister Matilda, and the whole family, he seized an axe and struck

<sup>1</sup> August 12, 1267.

<sup>2</sup> August 1, 1267.

xlv. s.

cepit quandam hachiam in manu sua et percussit dictum Rogerum de Bemfeld in capite quod cecidit, et omnes alii felones statim fugierunt. Et statim levaverunt huttesium et fuit prosecutum per totam vill' et villate venerunt.<sup>1</sup> Et dictus Rogerus vixit usque in crastinum et tunc obiit. Et antequam obiit cognovit coram Roberto de Crevequer et villata de Ronhale quod illuc venit ad occidendum dictum Simonem et totam familiam suam. Et ad domum predicti Simonis remanserunt de dicto Rogero mortuo et aliis latronibus iij. equi cum sellis et frenis, et in pleno comitatu die Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo appreciantur ad xlv. s. et liberantur villate de Ronhale. Memorandum quod B. dictus Juvenis tunc vicecomes Bed' cepit dictos equos cum harnesiis in pleno comitatu ad opus domini Edwardi.<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio facta coram G. Roulaund coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Ronhale, Bereford, Wildene et Goudington, que dicunt ut predictum est.

Gouding-  
tone

Contigit apud Goldington die Veneris prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod Alicia filia Henrici Wigein de Goudington fere duorum annorum exivit de curia dicti Henrici et ivit in Grenam ad quendam fontem, et cecidit in dicto fonte et submersit [se<sup>3</sup>] per infortunium. Et Angnes mater ejus primo invenit eam et invenit plegios Henricum Wygein et Walterum Rokkesdone de Goudington.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Goudington, Ronhale, Bereford, Wildene, que dicunt quod nichil aliud sciunt nisi infortunium.

Etone,  
Honidene

Contigit in parochia de Etone die Jovis prox' post festum S. Laurencii anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod Henricus Costentin et Angnes Aunsel venerunt in campum quod<sup>4</sup> vocatur Twedescroft, et habuit in carecta sua x. garbas frumenti. Et dictus Henricus titubavit cum pedibus suis et cecidit super quemdam baculum carecte ita quod baculus intravit ad fundamentum. Et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et vixit usque ad diem Lune proximam sequentem et tunc obiit circa horam primam.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Etone, Wybaudestone, Colmorthe, Sutbiry, que dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi infortunium. Angnes Aunsel invenit plegios

<sup>1</sup> MS. *et vill' ven'.*

<sup>2</sup> Edward, eldest son of Henry III., was sheriff of Bedfordshire; Bartholomew

Young was *subvicecomes* or deputy sheriff.

<sup>3</sup> Not in MS.

<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*



Roger of Benfield in the head, so that he fell, and all the other felons at once fled. And forthwith the hue was raised and was pursued by the whole township, and the townships came. And Roger lived until the next day and then died. And before he died he confessed, in the presence of Robert of Crevequer and the township of Renhold, that he came there to kill Simon and all his family. And Roger, the deceased, and the other thieves left behind at Simon's house three horses with bridles and saddles; and in full county court on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-first year<sup>1</sup> they are appraised at forty-five shillings, and are delivered to the township of Renhold. Be it remembered that B[artholomew] called the Young, the then sheriff of Bedford, took the horses and harnesses in full county court for the use of Lord Edward.

Inquest was made before G. Rowland, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Renhold, Barford, Wilden, and Goldington; they say as is aforesaid.

Goldington

It happened at Goldington on Friday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-first year that Alice, daughter of Henry Wigan of Goldington, who was almost two years old, went forth from the said Henry's court to a certain well on the Green, and, falling into it, was drowned by misadventure. And Agnes, her mother, who first found her, produced pledges: Henry Wigan and Walter Roxton of Goldington.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Goldington, Renhold, Barford, Wilden; they say that, as far as they know, it was an accident.

Eaton.  
Honeydon

It happened in the parish of Eaton on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. Lawrence in the fifty-first year that Henry Costentin and Agnes Ansell came to the field called Tweedscroft, and he had in his cart twelve sheaves of wheat. Henry's feet slipped and he fell upon a certain pole of his cart, so that it penetrated into his fundament. He had the rites of the church and lived until the following Monday, and then died about the hour of prime.<sup>4</sup>

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Colmworth, Sudbury; they say that, as far as they know, it was a misadventure. Agnes Ansell found

<sup>1</sup> Monday, August 15, 1267.

<sup>3</sup> August 11, 1267.

<sup>2</sup> August 19, 1267.

<sup>4</sup> 6 A.M.

Radulphum filium Galfridi de Honidene, Rogerum Golde de eadem.  
 Carecta cum harnesio et blado appreciatur vj. d., equus ij. s. vj. d.

Bereford

Contigit in villa de Bereford die Jovis in festo Nativitatis Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod Willelmus filius Willelmi Fraunceys de Bereford etate ij. annorum et dimidii cecidit in fossato Roberti Wreng dummodo Matilda mater ejus ivit in domo dicti Roberti propter cervisiam, et submersit se per infortunium. Et dicta Matilda mater ejus invenit eum primo et levavit eum de aqua et putabat salvare eum, nec potuit. Et invenit plegios Robertum Page et Willelmum filium Petri de Bereford.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiore, Bereford, Ronhale, Rokkesdone, Wildene, que dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi quod per infortunium submersit se.

Goldingtone

Contigit in villa de Goldingtone die Martis in vigilia S. Dunstani post vespervas anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod orta fuit contencio in Grena de Goldingtone inter Willelmum Ruffum de Goldingtone et Johannem de Goldingtone pro bidentibus. . . . Et propter huttesium levatum Simon Ruffus coronator fecit inquisicionem per iiij. vill' propinquiore, Goldingtone, Ronhale et Ravenesdene pro una villata, Wildene et Bereford. Goldingtone dicit quod predictus Willelmus non obiit de dicta plaga, set dicunt quod obiit de predicta infirmitate et non per plagam quia inde sanatus fuit et facti fuerunt concordēs. Bereford, Ronhale, Wildene, Ravenesdene idem dicunt. Preceptum est quod Johannes de Goudingtone atachietur.

Honidene

Contigit apud Honidene in parochia de Etone die Jovis prox' ante Nativitatem Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup> primo quod vj. latrones venerunt apud Honidene contra horam vespertinam inter canem et lupum et invenerunt unum garcionem Philippum filium Rogeri Golde qui venit de falda patris sui et ipsum verberaverunt et maletractaverunt et wlnceverunt et fecerunt ipsum vi ducere eos ad domum Radulphi filii Galfridi de Honidene, et vocaverunt dictum Radulphum dominum domus ad introitum habendum. Dictus Radulphus congnoxit dictum Philippum garcionem et fecit hostium aperire. . . . Et exinde per-

pledges : Ralph, Geoffrey's son, and Roger Gold, both of Honeydon. The cart, with the harness and the wheat, is appraised at 6*l.*, the horse at 2*s.* 6*d.*

Barford

It happened in the vill of Barford on Thursday <sup>1</sup> the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-first year that William, son of William Francis of Barford, who was three and a half years old, fell into the ditch of Robert Wreng, while Matilda, his mother, went into the said Robert's house for beer, and he was drowned by misadventure. Matilda, his mother, first found him, and took him from the water, and thought to save him, but could not. She found pledges : Robert Page and William, son of Peter of Barford.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Barford, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden ; they say that, as far as they know, he was drowned by misadventure.

Goldington

It happened in the vill of Goldington after vespers on Tuesday <sup>2</sup> the eve of the feast of St. Dunstan in the fifty-first year that strife arose on the Green of Goldington between William Read of Goldington and John of Goldington concerning sheep. [William received a wound on the head four inches long, from which he afterwards recovered, and peace was made between them. William had the ague and died. His wife then raised the hue out of spite.] Owing to the fact that the hue had been raised, Simon Read, the coroner, made inquest by four neighbouring townships, Goldington, Renhold and Ravensden as one township, Wilden, and Barford. Goldington says that William did not die of the said wound, but of the said illness, for he recovered from the wound and they were reconciled. Barford, Renhold, Wilden, and Ravensden say the same. It is ordered that John of Goldington be attached.

Honeydon

It happened at Honeydon in the parish of Eaton on Thursday <sup>3</sup> next before the Nativity of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-first year that six thieves came to Honeydon about the hour of vespers at twilight, and they met a boy, Philip, Roger Gold's son, who was coming from his father's fold ; they beat him, maltreated and wounded him, and forced him to lead them to the house of Ralph, son of Geoffrey of Honeydon, and they shouted to the said Ralph, lord of the house, to let them in. Ralph recognised the [voice of] the boy Philip and opened the door. [They killed Ralph's mother and servant, and robbed his house.

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 8, 1267.<sup>2</sup> Sept. 6, 1267.<sup>3</sup> Sept. 1, 1267.

rexerunt ad domum Willelmi Motte in Godynewik et dictum Willelmum whneraverunt et quasi mortuum ipsum dimiserunt et postea domum suam combusserunt. Et idem Willelmus Motte vixit usque ad diem Lune proximam sequentem et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et obiit ante horam primam. Et tunc primo Philippus garcio Rogeri Golde qui captus fuit ad faldam evasit de manibus predictorum latronum. Et levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum, et invenit plegios Rogerum Golde patrem suum et Willelmum Golde de Honidene.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore et G. Roulaund coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquoires, Etone, Wybaudestone, Colm-orthe, Chalvesterne et Colesdene pro una villata, que dicunt quod nichil aliut sciunt nisi ut predictum. . . .

Sutbiry

Contigit apud Sutbiry die Mercuri prox' ante festum S. Dionisi anno regni regis Henrici I<sup>o</sup> primo quod quidam ingnotus qui imprisonabatur apud Sutho in manerio domini comitis Glovernie, et ibidem evasit de prisona et fugit ad ecclesiam de Sutho et coram coronatore de comitatu Hontingdon' abjuravit regnum et ibi elegit sibi portum de Dove. Et cepit iter suum versus Sutbiry et venit apud Sutbiry in comitatu Bedford'. Et venerunt Hugo le Wite de Haylewestone et Hugo filius Hugonis de Fonte de eadem et Henricus filius Henrici Hendeman de eadem prepositus et garcio Ricardi de Saxam qui vocatur Golding et prosecuti fuerunt ipsum ingnotum et insultaverunt ipsum cum gladiis et dederunt eii<sup>1</sup> unam plagam usque ad cor et statim cecidit, et postea cum una hachia in regali via extra Sutbiry amputaverunt capud ejus. Villata de Sutbiry hoc vidit. Levaverunt huttesium et fuit prosecutum super predictos usque in com' Hontingdon', et prosecutum fuit huttesium in comitatu Bed' de vill' in vill'.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquoires scilicet Etone, Sutbiry, Wibaudestone, Chalvesterne et Colesdene, que idem dicunt in omnibus sicut predictum est. Et preceptum est quod caperentur si inventi sint.

<sup>1</sup> This form of the dative occurs several times in the roll.



They then went to other houses with similar results ; besides Ralph's they plundered five other houses, and murdered the inmates of some of them.] Then they went to the house of William Mott in Goodwick ; they wounded him and left him for dead, and afterwards they burned his house. William lived until the following Monday and died before the hour of prime, after having had the rites of the church. Then at length Philip, Roger Gold's boy, who had been captured at the fold, escaped from the hands of the said thieves. He raised the hue, and pursuit was made. His pledges are Roger Gold, his father, and William Gold of Honeydon.<sup>1</sup>

Inquest was made before Simon Read and G. Rowland, the coroners, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Colmworth, and Chawston and Coldsden as one township ; they say that, as far as they know, it happened as is aforesaid. [The first, second, third, and fourth neighbour produce two sureties apiece.]

Sudbury

It happened at Sudbury on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Denis in the fifty-first year of King Henry that a certain unknown person who was imprisoned at Southoe in the manor of the Earl of Gloucester, escaped from prison there and fled to the church of Southoe ; and he abjured the realm before the coroner of the county of Huntingdon, electing for himself<sup>3</sup> the port of Dover. He took the road to Sudbury in the county of Bedford and reached that place. And Hugh White of Hail-Weston, Hugh, son of Hugh Atwell of the same place, and Henry, son of Henry Hendyman of Hail-Weston, the reeve and servitor of Richard of Saxam who is called Golding, came and pursued the unknown man. They assaulted him with swords and wounded him in the heart, so that he fell at once. Afterwards, in the king's highway outside of Sudbury, they decapitated him with an axe. The township of Sudbury saw this. The hue was raised and the aforesaid persons were pursued into the county of Huntingdon ; the hue was pursued in the county of Bedford from township to township.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Eaton, Sudbury, Wyboston, Chawston and Coldsden ; they say the same in all things as is aforesaid. It is ordered that [the culprits] be arrested if found.

<sup>1</sup> A person present when a homicide was committed was required to find sureties for his appearance before the itinerant justices (*Statutes of the Realm*, i. 40 ; Bracton, fol. 121 b).

<sup>2</sup> Oct. 5, 1267.

<sup>3</sup> This is in accord with the statements

of Bracton, fol. 135 b, and Britton, 25 b ; but since the latter part of Edward I.'s reign the coroner seems to have assigned a port to the person abjuring the realm (*Year Book*, 30-31 Edw. I., 509 ; *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 59 ; and see the cases below in later rolls).



Ronhale

Contigit in villa de Ronhale die Veneris prox' post festum S. Nicholai anno regni regis l<sup>ij</sup>º quod venerunt latrones ad domum Henrici Aylwit inter canem et lupum et fregerunt parietem domus sue et intraverunt et percusserunt dictum Henricum cum uno cultello in corpore. Alieia uxor sua exivit a domo et levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum. Vicini venerunt. Predicti felones omnia bona domus asportaverunt. Predictus Henricus Ailwit habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et eadem nocte obiit.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Ronhale, Goudington, Wildene, Bereford, que dicunt quod nichil aliud sciunt nisi ut predictum est. Alicia uxor dicti Henrici invenit plegios Rogerum le Messer de Ronhale et Simonem de la Rivere de eadem.

Wybaudestone

Anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis l<sup>ij</sup>º contigit in villa de Wybaudestone die Jovis prox' ante festum S. Thome Apostoli. . . .

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Wybaudestone, Etone, Chalvesterne et Colesdene, que dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi ut predictum est. Roisia soror dicti Roberti primo invenit eum, levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum. . . .

[Stiltone]

Contigit in villa de Stiltone in comitatu de Hontingdon' anno l<sup>o</sup> secundo in manerio prioris de Bissemade die Dominica prox' ante Carniprivium quod Hugo de Stiltone et Egidius de eadem servientes prioris de Bismede litigabant in boscare dicti prioris ita quod dictus Hugo cepit predictum Egidium et posuit ipsum vi extra hostium. Et dictus Egidius perrexit ad Petrum ballivum ejusdem manerii et conquestus fuit eo quod non ausus<sup>1</sup> fuit intrare ad hostium boscar' ad faciendum officium suum. Et predictus Petrus et Egidius perrexerunt ad hostium boscar' et petiebant introitum. Predictus Hugo statim aperuit hostium et insultavit predictum Petrum et percussit predictum Petrum cum uno cultello in dorso sub umero dextro et fecit eii unam plagam profundam. Et die Dominica sequente eques perrexit apud Bissemade et dicebat se esse infirmum et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et obiit die Martis prox' sequente.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *assus*.

Renhold

It happened in the township of Renhold on Friday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Nicholas in the fifty-second year of the king's reign that thieves came to the house of Henry Ailwit at twilight and broke the wall of his house and entered and struck him in the body with a knife. Alice, his wife, went forth from the house and raised the hue; the hue was pursued, and the neighbours came. The felons carried away all the goods from the house. Henry Ailwit had the rites of the church and died on the same night.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Renhold, Goldington, Wilden, Barford; they say that they know nothing except as is aforesaid. Alice, Henry's wife, found pledges: Roger Reaper and Simon Rivers, both of Renhold.

Wyboston

In the fifty-second year of King Henry, son of King John, it happened in the township of Wyboston on Thursday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [that Robert of Wyboston fell from a boat and was drowned].

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Wyboston, Eaton, Chawston, and Coldsden; they say that they know nothing except as is aforesaid. Rose, sister of the said Robert, first found him; she raised the hue, and the hue was pursued. [She finds two sureties. Each of the four persons who were with Robert in the boat produces two pledges. The boat is appraised at five shillings and is delivered to the vill of Wyboston.]

[Stilton]

It happened in the vill of Stilton in the county of Huntingdon in the manor of the prior of Bushmead on Sunday<sup>3</sup> next before Lent in the fifty-second year that Hugh of Stilton and Giles of Stilton, servants of the prior of Bushmead, were quarrelling in the prior's cowhouse, so that the said Hugh seized the said Giles and thrust him by force outside the door. Giles went to Peter the bailiff of the manor and complained that he dared not enter the door of the cowhouse to perform his duties. Peter and Giles then went to the door of the cowhouse and tried to enter. Hugh at once opened the door and assaulted Peter and struck him with a knife on the back under the right shoulder, inflicting upon him a deep wound. On the following Sunday [Peter] went on horseback to Bushmead and said that he was ill; he had the rites of the church, and died on the following Tuesday.

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 9, 1267.<sup>2</sup> Dec. 15, 1267.<sup>3</sup> Feb. 19, 1268.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Etone, Wybaudistone, Chalvesterne, Colmmorthe, que dicunt quod predictus Petrus modo predicto percussus fuit et de dicta plaga obiit. Et coronator de comitatu Honting' fecit inquisicionem.

Ronhale

Contigit in villa de Ronhale die Pasche anno l<sup>o</sup>ii<sup>o</sup> circa horam terciam . . .

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores scilicet Ronhale, Wildene, Bereford et Goudingtone, qui<sup>1</sup> dicunt quod nichil aliud sciunt nisi ut predictum est.

Colmmorthe

Contigit in villa de Colmmorthe en le Sutende die Veneris prox' ante festum S. Barnabe Apostoli anno l<sup>o</sup>ij<sup>o</sup> . . .

Ravenedene.<sup>2</sup>  
Apellum

Amabilia uxor Willelmi Picot de Ravenedene venit ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante Assumpeicionem Beate Marie anno l<sup>o</sup>ij<sup>o</sup> et apellavit Johannem filium Henrici ad Aquam de Bereford, Radulphum filium Gilberti de Bollenhurst, Henricum le Chasur de Kaisho, Galfridum le Waleis et Ricardum le Waleys et Willelmum filium Wlky, Henricum de Wottone, Galfridum Dreye de Lega, de bateria et roberia facta Willelmo viro suo, et invenit plegios de proseguendo Robertum Picot de Ravenedene et Robertum le Vinour de Caisho. Istud apellum cessavit ad proximum comitatum.

Mcel<sup>3</sup>

Gouldingtone.

Contigit in villa de Gouldingtone die Lune prox' ante Circumsicionem Domini in summo mane anno regni regis Henrici l<sup>o</sup> tercio quod duo fratres scilicet Henricus et Willelmus filii Ricardi Carpentari de Goudingtone litigaverunt inter se in domo patris eorum pro uno obulo<sup>4</sup> eo quod unus illorum alteri acomodaverit, ita quod litigando exierunt de dicta domo patris eorum usque ad januam. Et tunc dictus Willelmus percussit dictum Henricum cum uno baculo de pomerio

Mem. 3

<sup>1</sup> Sic.<sup>2</sup> Sic.<sup>3</sup> This probably stands for memorandum.<sup>4</sup> Sic.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Chawston, Colmworth; they say that the said Peter was struck in the said manner and died of the said wound, and the coroner of the county of Huntingdon made inquest.<sup>1</sup>

Renhold

It happened in the vill of Renhold on Easter Day in the fifty-second year about the hour of terce<sup>2</sup> [that a child fell into a well, while his parents were at church, and was drowned. His sister found him and produced two sureties].

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Renhold, Wilden, Barford, and Goldington; they say that they know nothing except as is aforesaid.

Colmworth

It happened in the vill of Colmworth in the South-end on Friday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the fifty-second year . . .

[This case is similar to the preceding. The inquest is by Colmworth, Wilden, Chawston, and Coldsden.]

Ravensden

Mabel, wife of William Picot of Ravensden, came to the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next before the Assumption of the Blessed Mary in the fifty-second year and appealed John, son of Henry Atwater of Barford, Ralph, son of Gilbert of Bohnhurst, Henry Hunter of Keysoe, Geoffrey Wallis, Richard Wallis, William son of Vulky,<sup>5</sup> Henry of Wootton, and Geoffrey Dray of Leigh, of battery and robbery committed against her husband. And she found pledges to prosecute: Robert Picot of Ravensden and Robert Viner of Keysoe. This appeal ceased at the next county court.<sup>6</sup>

Goldington

It happened in the vill of Goldington early in the morning on Monday<sup>7</sup> next before the Lord's Circumcision in the fifty-third year of King Henry that two brothers, to wit, Henry and William, sons of Richard Carpenter of Goldington, quarrelled in their father's house about a halfpenny which the one had lent to the other, and they went forth quarrelling to the outer door of their father's house. Then William struck Henry on the head with a crab-tree stick, so that he

<sup>1</sup> There was an inquest in Bedfordshire, where Peter died, and another in Huntingdonshire, where he received the wound.

<sup>2</sup> 9 A.M., April 8, 1268.

<sup>3</sup> June 8, 1268.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 13, 1268.

<sup>5</sup> Wilkie (?).

<sup>6</sup> The case was dropped, probably because a woman could appeal a man only for the death of her husband or for rape (Britton, fol. 45; Maitland, *Sel. Pleas of Crown*, pp. 13, 76).

<sup>7</sup> Dec. 31, 1268.

silvestri in capite quod cecidit ita quod vixit usque ad noctem et parum infra noctem obiit per infortunium. Et dictus Willelmus statim fugit. Hawisa mater eorum hoc primo percepit, levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum per vicinos, et invenit plegios Waltherum de Rockesdone et Robertum Hude de Goldingtone.

Preceptum  
est

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores scilicet Goldingtone, Bereford, Ronhale, Wildene, Ravenesdene, que dicunt sicut predictum est. Et dicunt quod predictus Willelmus nichil habuit in catallis. Johannes de Mewes primus vicinus invenit plegios Galfridum le Cokere et Rogerum Bovetoun. Robertus Careles ij. vicinus invenit plegios Henricum Wigein et Henricum Clericum de Goldingtone. Preceptum est quod predictus Willelmus capiatur.

Bereford

Contigit in villa de Bereford die Mercurii prox' ante Purificacionem Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup> tercio quod Simon Daffe de Bereford intravit aquam que vocatur Use apud Bereford et vellet cepisse unum linguum juxta Mulnemade ex parte orientali ville et per infortunium submersit se. Et postea Margeria uxor sua invenit eum die Martis prox' post festum S. Mathey Apostoli anno predicto in quodam loco qui vocatur Walesorlig ex parte meridionali ville, et invenit plegios Willelmum le Berher et Henricum Cointerel de Bereford.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Bereford, Wibaldestone, Rockesdone, Ronha,<sup>1</sup> que dicunt sicut predictum est et nichil aliud sciunt.

. . . . .

Wildene

Contigit in villa de Wildene die Mercuri prox' ante festum Apostolorum Phillipi et Jacobi post horam vespertinam anno 1<sup>o</sup> tercio quod Johannes filius Willelmi le Wyte de Wildene etate xij. annorum custodivit agnes<sup>2</sup> Willelmi le Wyte patris sui in gardino quod quondam erat Thome Tirel de Wildene. Et hora predicta idem Johannes deposuit vestes suas et intravit in quadam aqua in dicto gardino ad bahnandum se et submersit se per infortunium. Adam le

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.



fell; he lived until the night, and just after nightfall died by misadventure. William fled forthwith. Hawise, their mother, first saw [that he was dead]; she raised the hue, and the hue was pursued by the neighbours. She found pledges: Walter of Roxton and Robert Hood of Goldington.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Goldington, Barford, Renhold, Wilden, and Ravensden; they say as is aforesaid; and they say that the said William had no chattels. John Mews, the first neighbour, found pledges: Geoffrey Cocker and Roger Bovetown. Robert Careless, the second neighbour, found pledges: Henry Wigan and Henry Clerk of Goldington. It was ordered that the said William be arrested.

Barford It happened in the vill of Barford on Wednesday<sup>1</sup> next before Candlemas in the fifty-third year that Simon Daffe of Barford entered the river Ouse at Barford, intending to take a piece of timber to Millmead on the east side of the vill, and by misadventure he was drowned. Afterwards, on Tuesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle in the same year, Margery, his wife, found him in a certain place called Walesorlig on the south side of the vill; and she produced pledges, William Shepherd and Henry Cointerel of Barford.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Barford, Wyboston, Roxton, Renhold; they say as is aforesaid, and they know nothing else.

Barford [On the day on which Margery found her husband, she also found the dead body of a poor woman in a ditch. She at once raised the hue and cry, and ran to the vill of Barford. There was an inquest before S. Read by four neighbouring townships, Barford, Roxton, Wilden, and Renhold. They say that they know nothing concerning the dead woman, but they believe that she died of exposure to cold. Margery found two pledges.]

Wilden It happened in the vill of Wilden after the hour of vespers on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Philip and James in the fifty-third year that John, son of William White of Wilden, who was twelve years of age, was watching his father's lambs in a yard which formerly belonged to Thomas Tirel of Wilden. And at the said hour John took off his clothes and entered a certain stream in the said yard to bathe, and he was drowned by misadventure. Adam

<sup>1</sup> Jan. 30, 1269.

<sup>2</sup> Sept. 24, 1269.

<sup>3</sup> April 24, 1269.

Sauser primo invenit <sup>1</sup> et invenit plegios Simonem Sprot et Nicholaum Albric de Wildene.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Wildene, Ronhale, Ravenesdene, Colmorthie et Bollenhurst, que dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi ut predictum est. Ricardus le Norcis primus vicinus invenit plegios Ricardum Prepositum de Wildene et Joce de eadem. Willelmus Attechurchegate ij. invenit plegios Johannem le Bothelere et Johannem Sourdival de Wildene. Englecheria presentata per Reginaldum le Wyte awnculum ex parte patris et Ricardum filium Rogeri de Wildene cognatum ex parte matris.

Etone

Contigit in libertate de Etone die Dominica prox' ante festum S. Johannis ante Portam Latinam anno l<sup>o</sup> iij<sup>o</sup>. . . .

Preceptum  
est

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Etone, Colmorthie, Wildene, Wibaudestone, Stapolho,<sup>2</sup> que dicunt ut predictum est. Et dicunt quod Ricardus nulla habuit catalla. Et preceptum est quod predictus Ricardus capiatur. Englecheria presentata per Walterum Pistorem de Alboldesle patrem suum et Hugonem filium Cristiani awnculum suum ex parte matris.

Ravenesdene

<sup>3</sup> Contigit in parochia de Ravenesdene apud Sturteslowe <sup>4</sup> die Dominica in festo S. Fidei Virginis circa horam nonam anno l<sup>o</sup> tercio quod Johannes filius Reginaldi Prepositi de Sturteslowe infans etate unius anni et dimidi<sup>5</sup> perrexit extra januam dicti Reginaldi dum sedebat ad prandium <sup>6</sup> suum, et cecidit in quodam fossato et submersit se. Alicia mater sua quesivit ipsum scilicet infantem suum et invenit ipsum submersum et invenit plegios Arnholdum Argent <sup>7</sup> de Ravenesdene et Johannem Yun de eadem.

Inquisicio facta coram S. Ruffo <sup>8</sup> coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Ronhale, Ravenesdene, Wildene, Goudington, que dicunt sicut predictum est et nichil aliud sciunt.

<sup>1</sup> Supply *cum*.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>3</sup> This and the four following cases are in Roll 2 (B), mem. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Sturtelouwe B.*

<sup>6</sup> *commestum B.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ranulphum Argent B.*

<sup>8</sup> *R. de Goudintone B.*

<sup>5</sup> *Sic*.

Saucer, who first found him, produced pledges : Simon Sprott and Nicholas Albrie of Wilden.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Wilden, Renhold, Ravensden, Colmworth, and Bolnhurst ; they say that they know nothing except as is aforesaid. Richard Norris, the first neighbour, found pledges : Richard Reeve of Wilden, and Joce of the same place. William Attechurchgate, the second [neighbour], found pledges : John Butler and John Sourdeval of Wilden. Englishry was presented by Reginald White, an uncle on the father's side, and Richard, son of Roger of Wilden, a kinsman on the mother's side.

Eaton

It happened in the liberty of Eaton on Sunday <sup>1</sup> next before Port Latin Day in the fifty-third year [that Richard, son of Robert of Staplehoe, came to Wilden at night to the house of his wife Ivette <sup>2</sup> and induced her to go with him to her father's house in Staplehoe. On the way to that place he killed her and threw her body into a well, called Whitewell. Robert of Leigh found her next morning and raised the hue ; he produced two pledges].

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Colmworth, Wilden, Wyboston, and Staplehoe ; they say as is aforesaid. They also say that Richard has no chattels. It is ordered that Richard be arrested. Englishry was presented by Walter Baker of Alboldesle,<sup>3</sup> her father, and Hugh, Christian's son, her uncle on the mother's side.

Ravensden

It happened in the parish of Ravensden at Sturteslow on Sunday the feast of St. Faith the Virgin about the hour of none <sup>4</sup> in the fifty-third year that John, son of Reginald Reeve of Sturteslow, an infant one and a half year old, went outside Reginald's door while the latter was at dinner, and fell into a certain ditch and was drowned. Alice, his mother, searched for him, to wit, her infant, and found him drowned. She produced pledges : Arnold Argent and John Yun,<sup>5</sup> both of Ravensden.

Inquest was made before Simon Read, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Renhold, Ravensden, Wilden, and Goldington ; they say as is aforesaid, and they know nothing else.

<sup>1</sup> May 5, 1269.    <sup>2</sup> MS. *Juetta* or *Ivetta*.

<sup>3</sup> Abbotsley (?)

<sup>4</sup> 3 P.M. on Sunday, October 6, 1269.

<sup>5</sup> Jeune (?)

Rokkesdone

Contigit in villa de Rokkesdone die Dominica prox'<sup>1</sup> in festo S. Hugonis Episcopi infra noctem anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> quarto quod felones. . . .

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudington per iiij. vill' propinquoies, Rokkesdone, Berford, Chalvesterne, Colesdene, Wybaudestone, qui<sup>2</sup> dicunt sicut predictum est.

Item Azelina uxor dicti Johannis Sutoris nondum mortua congnovit coram coronatore quod visu congnovit quosdam qui interfuerunt ad dictam feloniam faciendam, quod quidam nomine Ricardus de Neywile qui aliquando secutus fuit priorem de Neuham ibi interfuit. Item dicta Azelina dixit quod quidam ibi interfuerunt qui in autumpno predicto colexerunt decimas prioris de Caudewell' in c. . .<sup>3</sup> de Rokesdon, interfuerunt cerotecarii de Bed'. Postea nomina eorum quesita fuerunt per coronatorem, Reginaldus de Pokebrok et Adam et Alanus et Symon Corbin qui capti fuerunt in libertate Bed'. Et dictus Ricardus captus fuit pro inditamento dicte Azeline, et dicta Azelina ducta fuit ad gaolam ad videndum dictum Ricardum. . . .<sup>4</sup> et alias fatebatur quod idem Ricardus interfuit ad predictam feloniam faciendam. Postea deliberatus fuit coram justiciariis domini regis ad gaolam de[liberandam]<sup>4</sup> assignatis per breve domini regis scilicet Nicholaum<sup>5</sup> Peyvere et alios.<sup>6</sup> Item Walterus de S. Neoto<sup>7</sup> invenit plegios Walterum Rundel et Walterum Carpenter de Schalvisterne.<sup>8</sup>

Etone

Contigit in villa de Etone in uno hamello qui vocatur Stapelho<sup>9</sup> in bracina<sup>10</sup> domine Juliane de Bello Campo die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis<sup>11</sup> anno l'iiij<sup>to</sup> circa horam nonam quod Amicia

<sup>1</sup> *prox'* omitted in B.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> The remainder of the word is illegible.

<sup>4</sup> MS. torn.

<sup>5</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>7</sup> The above-mentioned servant of John Cobbler.

<sup>8</sup> The whole of this paragraph is taken from B. A is much shorter; 'Item Azeline

uxor dicti Joh' Sutoris mortui dixit quod quidam Ricardus de Nevile qui duxit uxorem apud Elnestowe fuit ad dictam feloniam faciendam et captus fuit et ductus ad prisonam, et Reg' de Pokebrok et Adam et Aleyn capti fuerunt.'

<sup>9</sup> *Stapelho'* B.

<sup>10</sup> *braceria* B.

<sup>11</sup> *Matthei Apostoli* B.

Roxton

It happened in the vill of Roxton on the night of Sunday<sup>1</sup> the feast of St. Hugh the Bishop in the fifty-fourth year that felons [broke into a house and carried away everything of value. They then robbed another house, killing the two inmates. Next they robbed the house of John Cobbler; they killed him, and wounded his wife Azeline, his daughter Agnes, and his servant Walter. His daughter Alice escaped and hid herself. She first found John's body, raised the hue, and produced two pledges. The finder of the two dead bodies in the other house raised the hue, and produced two pledges. The first, second, third, and fourth neighbour each found two pledges.]

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington by four neighbouring townships, Roxton, Barford, Chawston, Coldsden, Wyboston; they say as is aforesaid.

Azeline, wife of the said John Cobbler, before she died, stated before the coroner that she saw and recognised certain of those who participated in the felony; [she said] that a certain person named Richard of Neville, who formerly followed the prior of Newham, was there. Azeline also stated that certain persons were there who during the [last] autumn collected the tithes of the prior of Caldwell in the [parish] of Roxton, [and that] glovers of Bedford were present. Afterwards their names<sup>2</sup> were secured by the coroner; [they were] Reginald of Polebrook and Adam, Alan, and Simon Corbin, and they were arrested in the liberty of [the town of] Bedford. And the said Richard was arrested on the indictment of the said Azeline, who was taken to the gaol to identify him. . . . and again she stated that Richard participated in the said felony. Afterwards he was delivered before the king's justices assigned for gaol delivery by the king's writ, to wit, Nicholas Peyver and others. Walter of St. Neots found pledges: Walter Rundel and Walter Carpenter of Chawston.<sup>3</sup>

Eaton

It happened in the vill of Eaton in a hamlet called Staplehoe in the brewhouse of Lady Juliana de Beauchamp about the hour of none on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next after Michaelmas in the fifty-fourth year that

<sup>1</sup> November 17, 1269.

<sup>2</sup> Probably the names of the glovers.

<sup>3</sup> This paragraph is from B. A is much shorter: 'Azeline, wife of John Cobbler deceased, stated that a certain Richard of

Neville who married at Elstow participated in the said felony; he was arrested and taken to prison; and Reginald of Polebrook and Adam and Alan were arrested.'

<sup>4</sup> 3 P.M., Oct. 2, 1270.



Belamy filia Roberti Belamy et Isabella<sup>1</sup> Bonechevaler portaverunt inter se unam cuvam plenam de gruto et deberent reversare grutum in quodam plumbo bulliente, ita quod Amicia Belamy titubavit cum pedibus et cecidit in dicto plumbo bulliente et cuva super eam. Dicta Sibilia Bonechevaler statim saltavit ad eam et abstraxit eam a dicto plumbo et clamavit, et famuli domus venerunt et invenerunt eam scaturizatam fere ad mortem. Dicta Amicia habuit jura sua ecclesiastica<sup>2</sup> et die Veneris prox' sequente obiit circa horam primam. Predicta Sibilia que erat cum ea invenit plegios Gervasium de Seltone et Robertum le Moine de Stapelho.<sup>3</sup>

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goldington<sup>4</sup> coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquoires, Etone, Wybaudestone, Chalvesterne, Colmmorthe, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil sciunt nisi ut predictum est. Plumbum apreciatur xij. d. et cuva apreciatur ij. d.,<sup>5</sup> tinellus apreciatur ad obolum,<sup>5</sup> et liberantur vill' de Etone.

avenesdene

Contigit in villa de Ravenesdene die Dominica prox' ante diem Pasche anno 1<sup>o</sup> quinto infra noctem quod Walterus Bedellus de Ronhale venit ad domum Isabelle filie Reginaldi uxoris sue in Ravenesdene et rogavit eam venire secum ad grangiam de Ronhale ad petendum unum bussellum frumenti quod daret eii,<sup>6</sup> et perrexit secum. Et quando venerunt in uno prato quod vocatur Longemade statim percussit eam ultra aurem sinistram ut patebat cum uno cultello et fecit eii plagam longitudine iiij.<sup>7</sup> pollicium profunditate usque ad cerebrum, et postea jecit ipsam in aquam in uno doyto<sup>8</sup> quod vocatur Ravenesbroc. Et die Lune prox' sequente Matilda mater sua et uxor Reginaldi invenit eam primo mortuam, levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum, et invenit plegios Rogerum Newebonde et Walterum Alfred de Ravenesdene. Ricardus Faber primus vicinis<sup>9</sup> invenit plegios Walterum Alfred et Hugonem le Wyte.<sup>10</sup> Willelmus Engayne ij. vicinis<sup>9</sup> invenit plegios Johannem Sauvage et Ricardum Fabrum.<sup>11</sup>

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudington coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquoires, Goudington, Ronhale et Ravenesdene pro una villata, Bolenhurst, Wildene, que dicunt sicut predictum est et nichil aliut sciunt. Inquisitum fuit de catallis et dicunt quod habuit apud Wildene unum angnum,<sup>12</sup> et apreciatur ad xij. d. et liberatur villate de Wildene.<sup>13</sup>

Catalla  
xij. d.

<sup>1</sup> Sybilia B.

<sup>2</sup> Et capellanus venit ad eam, et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica B.

<sup>3</sup> Stapelho B.

<sup>4</sup> Goudintone B.

<sup>5-5</sup> tinellus i. d. et ob. B.

<sup>6</sup> B adds ad pueros suos.

<sup>7</sup> iiij. B.

<sup>8</sup> ducto B.

<sup>9</sup> Sic.

<sup>10</sup> Wayte B.

<sup>11</sup> B gives a third and fourth neighbour with their pledges.

<sup>12</sup> j. bidentem et j. agnum B.

<sup>13</sup> B adds in ejus decenna erat ignorant.

Amice Belamy, Robert Belamy's daughter, and [Sibyl] Bonchevaler were carrying between them a tub full of grout, intending to empty the grout into a boiling leaden vessel; and Amice Belamy's feet slipped, and she fell into the said vessel, and the tub fell upon her. Sibyl Bonchevaler at once sprang to her and lifted her from the vessel and shouted [for help]; the servants of the household came and found her almost scalded to death. Amice had the rites of the church, and died on the following Friday about the hour of prime.<sup>1</sup> Sibyl, who was with her, found pledges: Gervase of Shelton and Robert Monk of Staplehoe.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Chawston, and Colmworth; they say on their oath that they know nothing except as is aforesaid. The vessel is appraised at twelve pence, the tub at two pence, the cowl-staff<sup>2</sup> at a halfpenny; and they are delivered to the township of Eaton.

Ravensden

It happened in the vill of Ravensden on the night of Sunday<sup>3</sup> next before Easter Day in the fifty-fifth year that Walter Bedell of Renhold came to the house of his wife Isabel, Reginald's daughter, in Ravensden, and asked her to come with him to the grange of Renhold to get a bushel of wheat which he wished to give her, and she went with him. And when they reached the meadow called Longnead, he at once struck her over the left ear, evidently with a knife, giving her a wound three inches in length and to the brain in depth; afterwards he threw her into the water of a brook called Ravensbrook. And on the following Monday Matilda, her mother, Reginald's wife, first found her dead; she raised the hue, and the hue was pursued. And she produced pledges: Roger Newbond and Walter Alfred of Ravensden. Richard Smith, the first neighbour, produced pledges: Walter Alfred and Hugh White. William Engaine, the second neighbour, produced pledges: John Savage and Richard Smith.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Goldington, Renhold and Ravensden as one township, Bohnhurst, and Wilden; they say as is aforesaid, and they know nothing else. They were asked about his chattels, and they say that he had a lamb at Wilden, which is appraised at twelve pence; it is delivered to the township of Wilden.

<sup>1</sup> 6 A.M.

<sup>2</sup> The pole on which the tub was carried; also called the 'sow-stang,' and in French

'tinel.' See Du Cange under 'tinellus,' and Halliwell, *Dict.* 768.

<sup>3</sup> March 29, 1271.

Ravenesden

Contigit in villa de Ravenesdene die Jovis prox' ante festum S. Marci Evangeliste <sup>1</sup> anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> quinto inter canem et lupum quod felones et latrones venerunt ad domum Johannis Reddum idem Johannes et Matilda uxor sua fuerunt <sup>2</sup> Walterus et Ricardus garciones sui sedebant in dicta domo ad cenam. Et intraverunt ad hostium ex parte occidentali et statim dictum Johannem insultaverunt et ipsum percusserunt juxta gravam in capite ut patebat eum una hachia et cum uno cultello usque ad cor, et statim obiit. Et dictam Matildamulneraverunt in capite ex parte dextra et manum sinistram fere amputaverunt et calefaciebant tripodem <sup>3</sup> et eam superposuerunt et ipsam fere mortuam dimiserunt. Et Walterum de Estwode et Ricardum Pichorn garciones domus ligaverunt. Postea omnia bona domus robiaverunt et asportaverunt. Et Walterus de Estwode deligavit se et vidit dictum Johannem mortuum, levavit hutesium et vicini venerunt et fuit prosecutum. Dictus Walterus invenit plegios Willelmum Fabrum de Salenho et Robertum Galien de eadem. Matilda uxor dicti Johannis invenit plegios veniendi ad comitatum, <sup>4</sup> plegios Walterum Gosefot et Willelmum Brund. . . .

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudingtone per iiij. vill' propinquiore, Ronhale, Ravenesdene pro una villata, Wildene, Bereford, Goudingtone, que dicunt quod suspectos Johannem <sup>5</sup> qui quondam fuit molen-dinarius Simonis le Rus, et quod interfectus fuit per consilium Angnetis Pikhorn et Matilde Pikhorn, et ita dicit Matilda uxor Johannis Red.<sup>6</sup> Et preceptum est quod capiantur. Radulphus Pikhorn non potuit invenire plegios, ideo pro suspcectione liberabatur ad gayholam tempore T. de Bray tunc vicecomitis.<sup>7</sup>

Etone.  
Anno  
1<sup>o</sup> sexto.

Contigit in villa de Etone die Martis in vigilia S. Johannis Baptiste post horam nonam. . . .

Mem. 4

Inquisicio facta per iiij. vill' propinquiore, Etone, Wybaudestone, Chalvesterne, Colesdene et Sutbyrie, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud sciunt nisi ut predictum est. Unum vetus

<sup>1</sup> Sic.      <sup>2</sup> et B.      <sup>3</sup> unam pedem B.

<sup>4</sup> ven' ad comitatum omitted in B.

<sup>5</sup> quod suspectos habent Johannem Hog B.

<sup>6</sup> Ita fatebatur Matilda uxor Johannis coram coronatore B.

<sup>7</sup> Ricardus Pichorn garcio domus venit ad comitatum et non potuit invenire plegios, ideo lib' ad gaolam tempore B. le Jurenis tunc vicecomitis B. Bartholomew le Juvenis was deputy sheriff. See above, p. 7, n. 2.

Ravensden

It happened in the vill of Ravensden at twilight on Thursday <sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the fifty-fifth year of King Henry that felons and thieves came to the house of John Rede, while the said John and Matilda, his wife, and Walter and Richard, his servants, were seated at supper. They [the felons] entered by the door on the west side, and at once assaulted John, striking him on the head near the crown,<sup>2</sup> evidently with an axe, and wounding him in the heart with a knife, so that he died immediately. They also wounded the said Matilda on the right side of the head and almost cut off her left hand, and, heating a brandreth,<sup>3</sup> they placed her upon it, and they left her almost dead. They also bound Walter of Eastwood and Richard Pikehorn, servants of the household. Afterwards they robbed the house of all its goods and carried them away. Walter of Eastwood unbound himself, and, seeing the said John dead, he raised the hue; the neighbours came, and the hue was pursued. Walter found pledges: William Smith of Salenhoe and Robert Galien of the same place. Matilda, wife of the said John, found pledges to come to the county court, to wit, Walter Goosefoot and William Brunt. [Each of the four 'vicini' found two pledges.]

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington by four neighbouring townships, Renhold [and] Ravensden as one township, Wilden, Barford, and Goldington; they say that they suspect John who was formerly the miller of Simon Russ, and that [John Rede] was killed by the counsel of Agnes Pikehorn and Matilda Pikehorn; and Matilda, wife of John Rede, says the same. It was ordered that they be arrested. [Richard] Pikehorn could not find pledges; therefore, since he was suspected, he was sent to gaol in the time of T. of Bray, the then sheriff.

Eaton

It happened in the vill of Eaton on Tuesday,<sup>4</sup> the eve of the feast of St. John the Baptist, after the hour of none [that William Whiteside fell from a boat and was drowned. His father, who drew him out of the water, found two sureties].

Inquest was made by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Chawston, Coldsden, and Sudbury; they say on their oath that they know nothing except as is aforesaid. One old boat is

<sup>1</sup> April 23, 1271.

<sup>2</sup> For the meaning of *greva*, see the Glossary.

<sup>3</sup> A trivet or iron tripod fixed over the fire, on which a pot or kettle was placed.

Halliwell, *Dict.* 206.

<sup>4</sup> June 23, 1271, 3 P.M., 55 Henry III. In 56 Henry III. the feast of St. John was Friday, June 24.



m' iij. s. batellum apreciatu ad xij. d. et aliud batellum <sup>1</sup> apreciatu ad iij. s. et liberantur villate <sup>2</sup> de Etone.

Midelstone.  
Stoddene

<sup>3</sup> Anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup> contigit in parochia de Mideltone die Sabati <sup>4</sup> prox' ante festum S. Margarete scilicet apud le Ermitage et grangiam prioris de Caudewelle quod . . .

Inquisicio facta coram coronatore <sup>5</sup> per iij. vill' propinquiores videlicet Mideltone, Hocle, Lega, Ravenesdene, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud sciunt nec inquire <sup>6</sup> poterunt nisi infortunium ut predictum est.

Wybaudestone

Anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis 1<sup>o</sup> contigit die Lune prox' ante festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude apud Wybaudestone in parochia de Etone circa horam meridianam in regali via inter curiam Oseberti de Bathon' <sup>7</sup> etcroftum Johannis Rungefer quod Osebertus de Ba fecit unam districcionem super Ricardum de Colestone per unam vaccam hominem Ade de Bassemey. Et dictus Adam mandavit Walterum de Hokewold et Willelmum Cokum homines suos cum Johanne Thaun <sup>8</sup> ballivo domini regis ad dictam districcionem deliberandam, ita quod venerunt loco predicto et obviaverunt Thome Snou de comitatu Somerset' servientem <sup>9</sup> et manupastum <sup>10</sup> dicti Oseberti de Baton' dum idem Osebertus fuit ad carucam suam in campis de Wybaudestone, ita quod dictus Walterus rogavit dicto Thome cum <sup>11</sup> quo erat et percussit eum parum cum uno baculo super umerum sinistrum. Et tunc supervenit Osebertus de Ba et Nicholaus de Ba, Walterus Smod de comitatu Somerset', et lis orta fuit inter eos ita quod Walterus Smod percussit Walterum de Hokewold in capite extraverso summitatis capitis cum una hachia que vocatur spart et fecit eii unam plagam longitudine vj. pollicium et profunditate usque ad cerebrum per medium <sup>12</sup> ita quod sanguis et cerebrum exierunt, ita

<sup>1</sup> William tried to catch hold of one boat while he was in another.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *lib' vill'*. The marginal *m'* seems to mean *memorandum*.

<sup>3</sup> This and the following five cases are also in B, mem. 2-3.

<sup>4</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>5</sup> *coram R. de Goudinton' coronatore B.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>7</sup> *le Ba* in all the passages in which this name occurs in B.

<sup>8</sup> *Schaun B.* <sup>9</sup> *Sic*. <sup>10</sup> *Sic*. <sup>11</sup> *Or tum.*

<sup>12</sup> MS. *med'*; B has *per med'* hos.



appraised at 12*l.*, and the other boat at 3*s.*; and they are delivered to the township of Eaton.

Milton [in]  
Stodden

On Saturday <sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Margaret, in the fifty-fifth year of King Henry it happened in the parish of Milton [in the hundred of Stodden], to wit, at the hermitage and grange of the prior of Caldwell that [Simon of Langenhoe was about to milk a cow, when he was stricken with a disease called 'mau del flaunke,' and died. Geoffrey, John Bond's son, first found his dead body, and raised the hue; to him came John of Dunstable, canon of Caldwell, and John of Charton. Geoffrey, John's son, and John of Charton produced pledges.<sup>2</sup>]

Inquest was made before [Ralph of Goldington], the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Milton, Oakley, Leigh,<sup>3</sup> and Ravensden; they say on their oath that, as far as they know and can ascertain, it was an accident, as is aforesaid.

Wyboston

About noon on Monday <sup>4</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the fifty-fifth year of King Henry, son of King John, it happened at Wyboston in the parish of Eaton in the king's highway between the yard of Osbert of Bath and the croft of John Rungefer that Osbert of Bath distrained Richard of Colston, a man of Adam of Bassemey, by [seizing] a cow. And the said Adam ordered Walter of Hockwold and William Cook, his men, together with John Thane, bailiff of the lord king, to deliver the said distress. They came to the said place and met Thomas Snow of the county of Somerset, a servant and retainer of the said Osbert of Bath, while Osbert was at the plough in the fields of Wyboston. And the said Walter asked the said Thomas with whom [the cow] was,<sup>5</sup> and struck him a little blow with a stick upon the left shoulder. Then came Osbert of Bath, Nicholas of Bath, and Walter Smod of the county of Somerset, and strife arose among them. Walter Smod struck Walter of Hockwold across the top of the head with an axe, called a sparthe,<sup>6</sup> and inflicted upon him a wound six inches long, which extended through the skull to the brain, so that the blood and brains flowed forth. Walter died of the wound

<sup>1</sup> July 18, 1271.

<sup>2</sup> B adds: Sir John of Dunstable, the canon, did not find pledges before the coroner, and hence it was ordered that he

be attached.

<sup>3</sup> Thurleigh (?).

<sup>5</sup> Translation doubtful.

<sup>6</sup> A halberd.

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 26, 1271.

quod dicta plaga dictus Walterus die Veneris prox' ante festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup>vj<sup>to</sup> obiit.<sup>1</sup>

Preceptum  
est

Inquisicio facta coram coronatore R. de Goudingtone per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Etone, Sutbyri, Colloworth, Stapelhe et Wybaudestone, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Walterus Smod de comitatu Somerset' occidit Walterum de Hokewold sicut predictum est. Ideo preceptum est quod capiatur et quod Osebertus de Ba, Nicholaus de Ba, Thomas Snou,<sup>2</sup> Walterus Fige atachientur. Et postea in pleno comitatu presentatum fuit per villatam de Etone quod Walterus de Hokewold prosecutus fuit Osebertum de Ba usque ad portam suam in Wybaudestone et quod Walterus Smod ipsum defendendo et Osebertum de Ba occidit Walterum de Hokewold sicut predictum est, et quod nullus culpabilis fuit de morte nisi predictus Walterus Smod.<sup>3</sup>

Unde  
appellum

Aubre de Hokewold venit ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis 1<sup>o</sup>vj<sup>to</sup> et appellavit Walterum Smod de comitatu Somersetie eo quod idem Walterus Smod ubi ipsa Aubre et Walterus de Hokewold filius suus fuerunt in pace dei et domini regis Henrici filii regis Johannis die Lune prox' ante festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis Henrici 1<sup>o</sup>v<sup>to</sup> inter horam nonam et undecimam horam in alto itinere domini regis scilicet inter capitale mesuagium Oseberti de Ba in villa de Wybaudestone et croftum Johannis Rungefir in eadem villa ibi venit idem Walterus Smot et insultavit Walterum de Hokewold filium suum nequiter et in felonia et aspectu et insultu premeditato et contra pacem domini regis sicut felonus, et percussit Walterum filium suum cum una hachia que vocatur sparht, unde manubrium fuit de corulo et hachia de ferro et acera, in capite a parte dextra inter aurem dextram et grevam capitis, et fecit eii unam plagam longitudine vj. pollicium et latitudine trium, profunditate per medium os, quod sanguis et cerebrum exierunt, ita quod de ictu nequiter sibi dato obiit. Et dicta Aubre recenter levavit huttesium et sequebatur de villa ad villam et ad ballivos domini regis et sic ad coron' et sic ad proximum comitatum. Et quod Walterus Smod istam feloniam fecit predictam

<sup>1</sup> B adds: *set habuit jura sua ecclesiastica.*

<sup>2</sup> *Schnon* or *Schnou* B.

<sup>3</sup> B adds: *et etiam dicunt quod nulla habuit catalla quod sciunt.*

on Friday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of All Saints in the fifty-sixth year of King Henry.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Sudbury, Colmworth, Staplehoe, and Wyboston; they say on their oath that Walter Smod of the county of Somerset killed Walter of Hockwold, as is aforesaid. Therefore it is ordered that he be arrested, and that Osbert of Bath, Nicholas of Bath, Thomas Snow, and Walter Figg be attached. And afterwards in full county court the township of Eaton presented that Walter of Hockwold pursued Osbert of Bath to his door in Wyboston, and that Walter Smod in self-defence and in defending Osbert of Bath killed Walter of Hockwold, as is aforesaid, and that no one except Walter Smod was to blame for [Walter of Hockwold's] death.

Aubrey of Hockwold came to the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of All Saints' in the fifty-sixth year of King Henry, son of King John, and appealed Walter Smod of the county of Somerset, for that while she and Walter of Hockwold, her son, were in the peace of God and of the lord King Henry, son of King John, between the ninth and the eleventh hour on Monday next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the fifty-fifth year of King Henry, in the king's highway, to wit, between the capital messuage of Osbert of Bath in the vill of Wyboston and the croft of John Rungefer in the same vill, there came Walter Smod and assaulted Walter of Hockwold, her son, wickedly, feloniously, and with [threatening] aspect and premeditated assault and against the king's peace as a felon; and with an axe called a sparthe,<sup>3</sup> the handle of which was of hazel and the blade of iron and steel, he struck Walter, her son, on the right side of the head between the right ear and the parting of the hair, inflicting upon him a wound six inches long, and three inches wide, extending in depth through the skull, so that the blood and brains flowed forth, so that of the blow thus wickedly dealt him he died. And Aubrey promptly raised the hue, and pursued it from vill to vill and to the king's bailiffs and thus to the coroner and thus to the next county court.<sup>4</sup> And that Walter Smod com-

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 30, 1271.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 2, 1271.

<sup>3</sup> A halberd.

<sup>4</sup> According to Bracton, fol. 139 b, a person could not properly sue an appeal unless he had raised the hue as quickly as possible: he should also go with the hue to the nearest vills and there declare the crime and the injuries perpetrated, and he

should go forthwith to the king's sergeants, if they can be found, and then to the coroners, and then to the next county court. The subject of appeal is considered at great length in book i. of Britton and book iii. of Bracton; see also Maitland, *Court Baron*, 85, 86, and Brunner, *Forschungen zur Gesch. des Rechtes*, ch. vi.

Waltero de Hokewold nequiter et in feloniam insultu premeditato et contra pacem domini regis sicut felonus anno predicto, loco et hora cum predicta hachia ofert<sup>1</sup> dicta Aubre probare vel disracionare versus eum tanquam versus felonem in quantum curia domini regis consideraverit quod mulier potest vel debet sequi vel probare versus hominem. Et invenit plegios de proseguendo Ricardum de Colstone Johannem . . .<sup>2</sup> de Wybandestone.

Item eadem Aubre apellat Osebertum de Ba eo quod idem Osebertus presens anno predicto, loco et hora precepit dicto Waltero feloni istam feloniam facere et ipsum tanquam felonus facere fecit, et dictum felonem post feloniam commissam et ante recepit, et etiam quod Osebertus jecit dictum Walterum filium suum cum manu sua dextra sub auditum cum manu sua a parte sinistra cum una petra que vocatur coilun<sup>3</sup> nequiter et in feloniam et insultu premeditato et contra pacem domini regis sicut felonus, ita quod si de antedicta plaga non obisset de ictu illo obisset. Et hoc offert dicta Aubre probare vel disracionare secundum quod curia domini regis consideraverit tanquam versus felonem. Plegii ut supra.

Item eadem Aubre apellat<sup>4</sup> Nicholaum de Ba fratrem Oseberti de Ba de vi et auxilio eo quod idem Nicholaus anno predicto, loco et hora tenuit filium suum cum ambabus manibus per brachium dextrum dum interfectus fuit, et quod non interfectus esset nisi ipsum tenuisset. Et quod hoc fecit nequiter et in feloniam et insultu premeditato sicut felonus offert probare versus eum, etc.

Mem. 5

Item eadem Aubre apellat Thomam Snou<sup>5</sup> de comitatu Somersette eo quod idem Thomas anno predicto, loco et hora percussit Walterum filium suum cum uno baculo de corulo super brachium sinistrum inter manum et cubitum, hoc fecit nequiter et in feloniam et insultu premeditato sicut felonus. Et hoc offert probare versus eum, etc.

Item eadem Aubre apellat Johannem de Herdewik eo quod idem Johannes percussit Walterum filium suum cum uno baculo de freyne eodem anno, loco et hora cum ambabus manibus suis extraverso lumbos nequiter et in feloniam et insultu premeditato sicut felonus. Et hoc offert probare ut supra.

Item eadem Aubre apellat Henricum Figge de Wybaudestone eo quod idem Henricus anno, loco et hora predicta tenuit dictum Walterum cum ambabus manibus suis per collum dum interfectus fuit nequiter et in feloniam sicut felonus et contra pacem domini regis. Et offert probare ut supra.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.    <sup>2</sup> Blank in MS.; *Joh' Mariot B.*    <sup>3</sup> *kaylun B.*    <sup>4</sup> Sic.    <sup>5</sup> *Schuon or Schnou B.*



mitted this felony against Walter of Hockwold wickedly, feloniously, with premeditated assault, and against the king's peace as a felon in the said year, place and hour with the said axe, she offers to prove and deraign against him as against a felon, in so far as the court of the lord king shall award that a woman can or ought to sue or bring proof against a man. And she finds pledges to prosecute: Richard of Colston and John [Mariot] of Wyboston.

Also Aubrey appeals Osbert of Bath for that the said Osbert, who was present in the said year, place and hour, ordered Walter, the felon, to commit the felony, and as a felon he caused him to do it, and he harboured the said felon after and before the felony was committed; and also for that Osbert with his right hand hit Walter, her son, under the ear on the left side [of the head] with a stone called a flint, wickedly, feloniously, with premeditated assault, and against the king's peace as a felon, so that if he had not died of the aforesaid wound, he would have died of this blow. And Aubrey offers to prove or deraign this as against a felon according as the court of the lord king shall award. Pledges [to prosecute] as above.

Also Aubrey appeals Nicholas of Bath, brother of Osbert of Bath, of being an accessory, for that in the said year, place and hour he held the right arm of her son with both hands while he was being killed, and for that her son would not have been killed if [Nicholas] had not held him. And that he did this wickedly and feloniously and with premeditated assault as a felon, she offers to prove against him, etc.

Also Aubrey appeals Thomas Snow of the county of Somerset, for that in the said year, place and hour he struck Walter, her son, with a hazel stick on the left arm between the hand and the elbow, and he did this wickedly and feloniously and with premeditated assault as a felon. And this she offers to prove against him, etc.

Also Aubrey appeals John of Hardwick for that in the said year, place and hour he struck Walter, her son, over the loins with an ash stick which he held with both his hands, [and he did this] wickedly and feloniously and with premeditated assault as a felon. And this she offers to prove as above.

Also Aubrey appeals Henry Figg of Wyboston, for that in the said year, place and hour he held the said Walter by the neck with both hands while he was being killed, [and he did this] wickedly and feloniously as a felon and against the king's peace. And [this] she offers to prove as above.



Item eadem Aubre apellat Mauricium Figge eodem modo eo quod idem Mauricius tenuit ipsum per tibiam sinistram.

Item eadem Aubre apellat Willelmum filium Willelmi Figge de Wybaudestone eo quod idem Willelmus modo predicto tenuit predictum Walterum per tibiam dextram anno, loco et hora predicta nequiter sicut felonus contra pacem domini regis. Et hoc offert probare ut supra.

<sup>1</sup> Et hoc offert dicta Aubre probare vel disracionare versus eos tanquam versus felones in quantum curia domini regis consideraverit quod mulier probare vel sequi potest vel debet versus homines. Et si defec[er]it in secta per mortem vel per infirmitatem Matilda filia sua optulit<sup>2</sup> se modo predicto sequi vel probare versus predictos per plegios ut supra.<sup>1</sup>

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo S. Andree Aubre venit et sequitur apellum suum versus Walterum Smod . . .<sup>3</sup>, qui fuerunt primo interrogati, non venerunt. <sup>4</sup>Ideo datus fuit dies dicte Aubre usque ad proximum comitatum per iudicium comitatus.<sup>4</sup>

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante festum Nativitatis Domini predicta Aubre venit et sequitur apellum suum versus Walterum Smod . . ., qui fuerunt ij<sup>o</sup> interrogati, non venerunt. <sup>5</sup>Ideo datus fuit dies dicte Aubre per iudicium comitatus usque ad proximum comitatum videlicet in v. septimanas.<sup>5</sup>

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Conversionis S. Pauli anno l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> Aubre de Hokewold venit in pleno comitatu et sequebatur apellum suum versus Walterum Smod . . ., qui fuerunt tercio interrogati pro morte Walteri de Hokewold et non venerunt. Ideo datus fuit dies dicte Aubre usque ad proximum comitatum.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Cathedre S. Petri anno l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> Aubre de Hokewold venit et sequebatur apellum suum versus Walterum Smod de comitatu Somerset', qui fuit quarto interrogatus et non venit, nec aliquis manucepit.<sup>6</sup> Ideo per iudicium comitatus utlagatus.

Utlageria

Item eadem Aubre<sup>7</sup> sequebatur apellum suum versus . . .<sup>8</sup> Et dicta Aubre atornata<sup>9</sup> est coram justiciariis in banco ad prose-

<sup>1-1</sup> This paragraph is from B; it is not in A.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *op'*.

<sup>3</sup> The names of the other seven appellees.

<sup>4-4</sup> Not in B.

<sup>5-5</sup> Not in B.

<sup>6</sup> *aliquis qui cum manucepit* B.

<sup>7</sup> B adds *eodem die*.

<sup>8</sup> The names of the other seven appellees.

<sup>9</sup> *ajurnatus* B.

Also Aubrey appeals Morris Figg in the same way, for that the said Morris held him by the left leg.

Also Aubrey appeals William, son of William Figg of Wyboston, for that in the aforesaid way, in the said year, place and hour, he held Walter by the right leg, [and he did this] as a felon wickedly and against the king's peace. And this she offers to prove as above.

And Aubrey offers to prove and deraign all this against them as against felons in so far as the court of the lord king shall award that a woman can or ought to prove or sue against men. And if she should fail to make suit on account of death or illness, her daughter Matilda offered in the aforesaid way to sue or bring proof against the aforesaid persons by pledges as above.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> the feast of St. Andrew Aubrey comes and prosecutes her appeal against Walter Smod [and the other seven appellees]. They were exacted for the first time, but did not come; therefore by the judgment of the county a day was given to Aubrey at the next county court.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before Christmas Aubrey comes and prosecutes her appeal against Walter Smod [and the other seven appellees]. They were exacted a second time, but did not come; therefore a day at the next county court, namely, five weeks hence, was given to Aubrey.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul in the fifty-sixth year Aubrey of Hockwold came to the full county court and prosecuted her appeal against Walter Smod [and the other seven]. They were exacted a third time for the death of Walter of Hockwold, but did not come; therefore a day at the next county court was given to Aubrey.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the fifty-sixth year Aubrey of Hockwold came and prosecuted her appeal against Walter Smod of the county of Somerset. He was exacted the fourth time, but he did not come, nor did anyone go surety [for his appearance at the next session of the court]; therefore he was outlawed by the judgment of the county court.<sup>5</sup>

Also Aubrey prosecuted her appeal against [the other seven appellees]. And she was adjourned before the Justices of the Bench

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 30, 1271.

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 21, 1271.

<sup>3</sup> Jan. 25, 1272.

<sup>4</sup> Feb. 22, 1272.

<sup>5</sup> A person is called to answer his accuser at four successive sessions of the county court. If at the fourth session he does not appear and no surety is found for

his appearance at the next county court, he is outlawed. If surety is produced at the fourth session and the accused does not appear at the fifth, he is outlawed. See Fleta, fol. 40; Bracton, fol. 125 b; Britton, fol. 20.

quendum versus predictos si voluerit per preceptum domini regis in hec verba.

Breve

Henricus dei gracia, etc., vicecomiti Bed' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod apellum quod Albreda de Hokewood<sup>1</sup> facit in comitatu tuo versus . . .<sup>2</sup> de morte Walteri de Hokewold filii ipsius Albrede venire facias coram justiciariis nostris apud Westm' a die Pasche in xv. dies cum atachiamendis et omnibus aliis illud apellum tangentibus. Et die prefate Albrede quod tunc sit ibi apellum illud versus predictos Osebertum, Nicholaum, Thomam, Johannem, Henricum, Mauricium, Willelmum prosecutura si voluerit. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Turrin Lond' v<sup>to</sup> die Febr' anno regni nostri l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup>. Quia Radulphus de Goudingtone coronator est consangwineus predictae Albrede et ipsam favet<sup>3</sup> in hac parte ut dicitur.

Apellum,  
Bereford

<sup>4</sup> Emma uxor Johannis de Bruteville de Bereford venit ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum<sup>5</sup> anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> et apellat Simonem filium Rogeri de Kainho<sup>6</sup> qui fuit serviens Johannis de Bordeleas<sup>7</sup> in Bereford, ubi dicta Emma et Johannes de Bruteville vir suus simul perrexerunt in pace dei et domini regis in villa de Bereford in regia via inter domum Jordani Cappe et domum que fuit Johannis de Blunhenham<sup>8</sup> die Sabati prox' post festum S. Dionisi ad horam vespertinam<sup>9</sup> anno ejusdem regis Henrici l<sup>v</sup><sup>to</sup>,<sup>9</sup> ibi venit dictus Simon tanquam felonus et prosecutus est dictum Johannem virum suum et insaltavit<sup>10</sup> eum insultu premeditato contra pacem domini regis inter brachia Emme uxoris sue dicto die, loco et hora, et ipsum percussit nequiter et in felonia de quodam ense de fero<sup>11</sup> et assera in summitate capitis ex sinistra parte inter grevam et auditum et fecit eii magnam plagam longitudine v<sup>to</sup><sup>12</sup> policum, latitudine iij. et profunditate usque ad cerebrum, unde tresdecim pecie ossis exierunt de dicta plaga. Item idem Simon felonus percussit dictum Johannem in parvo digito qui vocatur auricularis existente manu sinistra infra

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> The names of the seven appellees.

<sup>3</sup> *fovet* B.

<sup>4</sup> In B this case follows the next two.

<sup>5</sup> *in festo Animarum* B.

<sup>6</sup> *Kanyrho* B.

<sup>7</sup> *Burdelys* B.

<sup>8</sup> *Blunham* B.

<sup>9-9</sup> *anno ejusdem regis supradicto* B.

<sup>10</sup> *insultavit* B.

<sup>11</sup> Sic.

<sup>12</sup> Sic.

to prosecute the aforesaid persons, if she wishes; [this was done] by the king's order in these words.<sup>1</sup>

Henry by the grace of God, etc., to the sheriff of Bedford greeting. We command that you cause the appeal brought by Aubrey of Hockwold in your county court against [the seven appellees] for the death of Walter of Hockwold, son of the said Aubrey, to come before our justices at Westminster in Easter quindene with the attachments and all other things touching that appeal. And inform the said Aubrey that then and there she is to prosecute her appeal, if she wishes, against the said Osbert, Nicholas, Thomas, John, Henry, Morris, and William. And have this writ there. Witness myself at the Tower of London on the fifth day of February in the fifty-sixth year of our reign. For Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, is Aubrey's kinsman, and it is said that he favours her in this plea.

Barford

Emma, wife of John of Brettville of Barford, comes to the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of All Saints in the fifty-sixth year of King Henry, son of King John, and appeals Simon, son of Roger of Cainhoe, who was the servant of John of Bordelais<sup>3</sup> in Barford, [for that] while the said Emma and John of Brettville, her husband, were walking together in the peace of God and of our lord the king in the vill of Barford in the king's highway between the house of Jordan Cappe and the house that belonged to John of Blunham, at the hour of vespers on Saturday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Denis in the fifty-fifth year of King Henry, the said Simon came there as a felon and pursued John, her husband, and assaulted him with premeditated assault and against the king's peace [while he was] within the arms<sup>5</sup> of Emma, his wife, on the said day, in the said place and hour, and struck him wickedly and feloniously with a certain sword of iron and steel on the top of the head on the left side between the parting of the hair and the ear; he thus inflicted upon him a big wound which was five inches long, three inches wide, and which extended downward as far as the brain, so that thirteen pieces of bone were extracted from the wound. Also Simon, the felon, wickedly, feloniously, and against the king's peace, again struck the said John with the said sword under the hand on the little finger (called the auricular

<sup>1</sup> For the removal of appeals from the county court to the central courts, see Bracton, fol. 149; Britton, fol. 43 b.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 2, 1271.

<sup>3</sup> According to Lysons' *Magna Britannia*, i. 41, the manor of Birchfield was anciently

called Brytville or Burdesleys. Cainhoe is the modern Clophill (*ibid.* i. 70).

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 10, 1271.

<sup>5</sup> For the interpretation of this phrase, see Nichols's edition of Britton, i. 109, 114.



manum de dicto ense nequiter et in feloniam et contra pacem domini regis, et eidit nervos dicti digiti<sup>1</sup> ita<sup>2</sup> maimiatus est, et alium digitum juxta dictum digitum qui vocatur medicus ita quod fregit ossa dicti digiti, unde maimiatus est de duobus predictis digitis. Adhuc non sufficebant eii dicta malicia sua set tanquam felonis nequiter et in feloniam insultu premeditato contra pacem domini regis percussit dictum Johannem in dextra parte capitis orbos ictus et multos de plat dicti ensis, ita quod totum capud suum excoriavit et inflavit quod a parte sinistra amisit auditum. Et idem Simon feloniam eidem Johanni fecit, robiavit dictum Johannem de una bursa de cordewano et infra bursam viij. s. nove monete, precium burse vj. d.

Et eadem Emma quando vidit dictum Johannem virum suum sic vulneratum et male tractatum inter brachia sua recenter levavit huttesium et fuit prosecutum per totam vill' et sic de villa in villam et ita ad Radulfum de Goudingtone coronatorem qui in crastina<sup>3</sup> venit ad dictum Johannem et vidit plagas suas et ipsum sic male tractatum. Et dicta Emma protestata est in comitatu coram coronatore quod si Johannes vir suus de plagis suis possit convalescere ad proximum comitatum vlt sequi in propria persona versus dictum Simonem tanquam versus felonem. Et quod idem Simon dictas felonias Johanni viro suo fecit nequiter et in feloniam insultu premeditato contra pacem domini regis anno dicto, loco, die et hora dicta Emma offert probare et disracionare in omnibus modis secundum consideracionem curie domini regis, et eodem modo Johannes vir suus tanquam maimiatus. Et invenit plegios de proseguendo Gilebertum de Pontone et Radulphum Clericum de Temeseford.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Sancti Andree Apostoli anno l<sup>v</sup>vj<sup>to</sup> Emma non venit set Johannes vir suus in propria persona sua venit. Et quia predicti plegii non interfuerunt invenit alios de proseguendo scilicet Willelmum Balbe de Risle et Robertum Pippard de Goldingtone, et ita per judicium comitatus idem Simon eodem die non fuit vocatus.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante Nathale Domini anno predicto et<sup>4</sup> dictus Johannes venit et sequitur in quantum homo maimiatus potuit vel debuit, et dictus Simon primo interrogatus non

<sup>1</sup> Sic.<sup>2</sup> ita quod B.<sup>3</sup> crastino B.<sup>4</sup> et omitted in B.



finger) of the left hand; and he cut the sinews of the said finger so that he was maimed; and [he struck him] on another finger (next the said finger) called the ring-finger<sup>1</sup> so that he broke the bones of the said finger; thus he was maimed in both of those fingers. His malice did not stop there, but as a felon he again struck the said John many bloodless blows on the right side of his head with the flat of his sword wickedly, feloniously, with premeditated assault, and against the king's peace, so that the whole top of his head was excoriated and swelled, and he lost his hearing on the left side. Simon, the felon, also committed another felony against the said John: he robbed John of a leather purse, in which there were eight shillings of new money; the purse was worth sixpence.

And when Emma saw John, her husband, thus wounded and ill-treated in her arms she at once raised the hue, and the hue was pursued by the whole township, and so from vill to vill, and so to Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, who on the morrow came to the said John and viewed his wounds and saw him [as he was after he had been] thus ill-treated. And Emma avowed in the county court before the coroner that if John, her husband, should recover from his wounds, he in his own person will sue at the next county court against the said Simon as against a felon. And that Simon committed the said felonies against John, her husband, wickedly, feloniously, with premeditated assault, and against the king's peace in the said year, place, day and hour, the said Emma offers to prove and deraign in all ways according to the award of the court of our lord the king; and in the same way John, her husband, as a person maimed [offers to bring proof]. And she finds pledges to prosecute: Gilbert of Ponton and Ralph Clerk of Tempsford.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in the fifty-sixth year Emma does not appear, but John, her husband, appears in his own person. And since the aforesaid pledges are not present, he finds other pledges to prosecute, namely, William Balbe<sup>3</sup> of Risely and Robert Pippard of Goldington; and so by the judgment of the county court the said Simon is not called on this day.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next before the Nativity of the Lord in the aforesaid year the said John appears and sues in so far as a maimed man can or ought, and the said Simon is

<sup>1</sup> Formerly called leech-finger or leech-man (Halliwell, *Dict.* 357).

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 30, 1271.

<sup>4</sup> Dec. 21, 1271.

<sup>3</sup> Ball (?).

venit. Ideo per iudicium comitatus datus est dies eii usque ad proximum comitatum.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Conversionis Sancti Pauli anno predicto Johannes venit et sequitur versus dictum Simonem qui fuit secundo interrogatus, non venit. Ideo per iudicium comitatus datus est eii dies usque ad proximum comitatum.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Cathedre Sancti Petri anno predicto Johannes venit et sequitur versus dictum Simonem tanquam versus felonem qui fuit tercio interrogatus, non venit. Ideo per iudicium comitatus datus est eii dies usque ad proximum comitatum.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante festum Annunciacionis Beate Marie anno predicto Johannes de Bruteville venit et sequitur versus dictum Simonem qui fuit quarto interrogatus, non venit, set Robertus de Essex<sup>1</sup> manucepit dictum Simonem ad habendum ad proximum comitatum. Ideo per iudicium comitatus datus est eii dies usque ad proximum comitatum.

<sup>2</sup> Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post diem Palmarum anno l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> dictus Johannes de Bruteville venit et sequitur versus dictum Simonem qui fuit quarto interrogatus, non venit, set Robertus de Essex manucepit dictum Simonem ad habendum ad proximum comitatum. Ideo per iudicium comitatus datus est eii dies usque ad proximum comitatum.<sup>2</sup>

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post diem Palmarum anno l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> dictus Johannes venit et sequitur versus dictum Simonem, et dictus Simon quinto interrogatus venit et invenit plegios Philippum filium Radulphi de Parva Kainho, Thomam Doune de Stachedene, Radulphum Golstan de eadem et Michaellem Golstan de eadem.

Stapelho

Contigit in villa de Etone in uno hamello qui vocatur Stapelho<sup>3</sup> die Sabati in festo Sancti Johannis anno l<sup>vj</sup><sup>to</sup> quod felones et latrones venerunt ad domum Anselmi Bikeman de Stapelho<sup>3</sup> parum infra noctem et fregerunt parietem domi sue ex parte occidentali et intraverunt et dictum Anselmum statim insultaverunt<sup>4</sup> et ipsum<sup>4</sup> in gorgiam cum uno cultello et in haterello cum una hachia ut patet. Et vixit ab eadem nocte usque ad diem Lune prox' sequentem circa horam meridianam et tunc obiit. Huttesium levatum fuit et prosectum.

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudingtone coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquiores, Etone, Wybauestone, Colesdene et Chalvesterne pro

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2-2</sup> Not in B; evidently a careless repetition of the preceding paragraph.

<sup>3</sup> Stapelho<sup>4</sup> B.

<sup>4-4</sup> et ipsum percusserunt B.

exacted for the first time but does not appear; therefore by the judgment of the county a day is given him at the next county court.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul in the aforesaid year John appears and sues against Simon; and he is exacted a second time but does not appear; therefore by the judgment of the county a day is given him at the next county court.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the aforesaid year John appears and sues against Simon as against a felon; and he is exacted a third time but does not appear; therefore by the judgment of the county a day is given him at the next county court.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> next before Lady Day in the aforesaid year John of Brettville appears and sues against Simon; and he is exacted for the fourth time but does not appear, but Robert of Essex becomes mainprise for Simon's appearance at the next county court; therefore by the judgment of the county a day is given him at the next county court.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after Palm Sunday in the fifty-sixth year John appears and sues against the said Simon; and Simon, exacted for the fifth time, appears and finds pledges, Philip, son of Ralph of Little Cainhoe, Thomas Down, Ralph Goldstone, and Michael Goldstone [all three] of Stagsden.

Staplehoe

It happened in the vill of Eaton in a hamlet called Staplehoe on Saturday the feast of St. John in the fifty-sixth year<sup>5</sup> that felons and thieves came to the house of Anselm Beckman of Staplehoe soon after nightfall, and broke through the western wall of his house. Having thus secured entrance, they at once assaulted the said Anselm and [struck] him in the throat with a knife and on the haterel<sup>6</sup> with an axe, as is manifest. And he lived from that night until about noon of the following Monday and then died. Hue was raised and followed.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Eaton, Wyboston, Coldsden and Chawston as one township, [and Colmworth]; they say that the felons were

<sup>1</sup> Jan. 25, 1272.

<sup>2</sup> Feb. 22, 1272.

III. was Friday, June 24, 1272.

<sup>3</sup> March 21, 1272.

<sup>4</sup> April 18, 1272.

<sup>6</sup> The crown of the head, Halliwell, *Dict.*

<sup>5</sup> The Nativity of St. John in 56 Henry s. v.

una villata,<sup>1</sup> que dicunt quod ignoti fuerunt felones et quod de dictis plagis obiit. . . .

Gouding-  
tone

Contigit in villa de Goudingtone die Martis in septimana Pentecostes anno l<sup>o</sup>vj<sup>to</sup> . . .

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudingtone coronatore per iiij. vill' propinquoiores, Goudingtone, Bereford, Ronhale, Ravenesdene pro una villata, Wildene, que dicunt super sacramentum suum quod non obiit de dicta lesione set alia infirmitate eo quod pregnans erat, set tamen preceptum est ballivo domini regis quod dictus Alfridus atachietur.

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

Mem. I

### HUNDREDUM DE CLIFTON'.

. . . . .

Henlauwe,  
Anno l<sup>o</sup>vj<sup>to</sup>

Contigit in villa de Henlauwe in festo Sancti Clementis <sup>3</sup> anno domini preter' <sup>3</sup> circa mediam noctem quod venerunt latrones ignoti ad domum Galfridi Aylle et fregerunt parietem domus sue et intraverunt et dictum Galfridum insultaverunt et ipsum vulneraverunt in ventre cum uno cutello ita quod vicera sua exierunt, et in brachio sinistro fecerunt ei unam plagam longitudinis trium pollicium latitudinis unius. Et Stephanus Aylle frater eius qui erat in domo exivit a dicto domo per cameram et levavit hutesium et vicini venerunt et fuit persecutum et predicti felones fugerunt. Et dictus Galfridus vixit ab eadem nocte usque ad diem Jovis proximam sequentem et habuit jura sua ecclesiastica et condidit testamentum suum et tunc circa horam nonam obiit. . . .

Inquisicio facta coram G. Rodlond coronatore per iiij<sup>or</sup> villatas, Clifton', Aylritheseye, Henlauwe, Langefor, Mepertishall', que dicunt quod ignoti fuerunt latrones et nichil aliud sciunt nisi ut predictum, et quod predicti latrones dimiserunt <sup>4</sup> unam achiam denech' precii duorum denariorum, et liberatur villate <sup>5</sup> de Henlauwe. Et postea ad proximum comitatum presentatum fuit per villatam de Henlauwe quod

<sup>1</sup> B adds *Colmorth*.

<sup>2</sup> Roll I, nine membranes, 53-56 Henry III.

<sup>3-3</sup> Written above the line.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *dimiserunt*.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *lib' vill'*.

unknown persons and that he died of the said wounds. [Each of the four neighbours finds two pledges.]

Goldington

It happened in the vill of Goldington on Tuesday<sup>1</sup> in Whitsun week in the fifty-sixth year [that a woman was accidentally shot in the right eye with an arrow; fifteen days afterwards she died from illness due to pregnancy].

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Goldington, Barford, Renhold and Ravensden as one township, and Wilden; they say on their oath that she did not die of the said wound, but of another illness, for that she was pregnant. Nevertheless, the king's bailiff is ordered to attach the said Alfred [whose arrow struck her].

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

### HUNDRED OF CLIFTON.

. . . . .

It happened in the vill of Henlow about midnight on the feast of St. Clement<sup>2</sup> in the year of the Lord [1271] that unknown thieves came to the house of Geoffrey Aylle<sup>3</sup> and broke the wall of his house, and, entering, they assaulted Geoffrey and wounded him in the belly with a knife, so that his bowels protruded, and they gave him a wound on the left arm three inches long and one inch wide. And Stephen Aylle, his brother, who was in the house, went forth from the said house through the chamber and raised the hue; the neighbours came, and the hue was pursued, and the said felons fled. Geoffrey lived until the following Thursday. He had the rites of the church, made his will, and then died about the hour of none.<sup>4</sup> [Stephen and each of the four nearest neighbours find two sureties.]

Inquest was made before G. Rowland, the coroner, by four townships, Clifton, Arlesey, Henlow, Langford, and Meppershall; they say that the thieves were unknown, and [that] they know nothing else except as is aforesaid, and that the said thieves left behind them a Danish axe worth two pence, which is delivered to the township of Henlow. And afterwards at the next county court the township of

<sup>1</sup> June 14, 1272.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 23, 1271.

<sup>3</sup> Hayley (?)

<sup>4</sup> 3 P.M.



suspectos<sup>1</sup> habuerunt de eodem facto Robertum Richard de Aylrithes-  
eye, Jacobum le Ropere, Ricardum le Webbe de Henlauwe. Et pre-  
ceptum est quod capiantur.

. . . . .

#### HUNDREDUM DE WIXSTONSTRE.

. . . . .

Mem. 1  
dorse.  
Wilton.  
Anno 1<sup>vo</sup>

. . . . Et dicunt villate de Wilton' et Coupol quod credunt quod  
malefactores ignoti ipsum interfecerunt. Inquisicio facta coram  
G. Rodlond coronatore per iiij<sup>r</sup> villatas propinquoires, Wilton', Coupol,  
Mogerhanger, Noryvull', que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod  
nichil aliud sciunt nisi ut predictum est.

. . . . .

Mem. 2  
dorse.  
Adhuc  
Wilton'

Alia inquisicio facta de morte Bertram Polet coram G. Rodland  
coronatore per Wilton', Mogerhanger, Noryvull', Coupol, Blunham,  
Buston', Kerdinton', Sandeye. Wilton' dicit per sacramentum suum  
quod duo homines Radulphi Witbred de Kaudecot' scilicet Robertus  
Kyneman de Mogerhanger et Ricardus filius Godefridi de eadem  
venerunt ad grangiam de Wilton' die Sancti Edemundi<sup>2</sup> Regis anno  
1<sup>vo</sup> propter foragium ad opus Radulphi Witbred, nec habuerunt  
foragium et returnaverunt versus domum Radulphi Witbred et intra-  
verunt boscum de Wilton et ciderunt<sup>3</sup> vergas. Dictus Bertram super-  
venit et invenit eos malefactores. Et dictus Robertus et Radulphus<sup>4</sup>  
interfecerunt dictum Bertram et post factum returnaverunt ad domum  
dicti Radulphi. Willata de Coupol idem dicit. Alie villate dicunt per  
sacramentum suum quod nichil inde sciunt.

Radulphus Wytbred invenit plegios Willelmum Walerien, Symonem  
Blundel. . . .

Willelmus Coterel de Morgerhanger<sup>5</sup> berearius pro suspicione quod  
deberet vidisce<sup>6</sup> dictam feloniam invenit plegios Robertum Coterel,  
Willelmum filium Johannis de Mogerhanger.

Robertus Bercarius de Mogerhanger invenit plegios pro eodem  
Johannem le Bercher, Walterum le Desenser de Mogerhanger.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.    <sup>2</sup> Sic.    <sup>3</sup> Sic.    <sup>4</sup> Sic; probably a mistake for Ricardus.    <sup>5</sup> Sic.    <sup>6</sup> Sic.

Henlow presented that they suspected Robert Richard of Arlesey, James Roper, and Richard Webb of Henlow of having committed the act. And it was ordered that they be arrested.

[On membranes 1 and 2 there are five other inquests by four vills in cases of assault with fatal results, and one in a case of accidental death; they are dated 54 and 56 Henry III. In some of these cases two, three, or four neighbours are mentioned, each of whom finds sureties.]

HUNDRED OF WIXAMTREE.

[Bertram Polet of Willington was found dead.] And the townships of Willington and Cople say that they believe that unknown evil-doers killed him. Inquest was made before G. Rowland, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Willington, Cople, Moggerhanger, and Northill; they say on their oath that they know nothing except as is aforesaid.

Another inquest<sup>1</sup> was made concerning the death of Bertram Polet before G. Rowland, the coroner, by Willington, Moggerhanger, Northill, Cople, Blunham, Beeston, Cardington, and Sandy. Willington says on oath that on the feast of St. Edmund the King in the fifty-fifth year<sup>2</sup> two men of Ralph Whitbread of Caldecote, namely, Robert Kineman of Moggerhanger and Richard, son of Godfrey of the same place, came to the grange of Willington for fodder for the use of Ralph Whitbread; they returned towards Ralph's house without having obtained the fodder, and they entered the wood of Willington and cut twigs. Bertram [then] appeared and came upon the evil-doers. And the said Robert and [Richard] killed Bertram, and after the act returned to Ralph's house. The township of Cople says the same. The other townships say on their oath that they know nothing about it.

Ralph Whitbread finds pledges: William Valerian, Simon Blundel [and ten others].

William Coterel of Moggerhanger, the shepherd, owing to the suspicion that he must have witnessed the felony, found pledges: Robert Coterel and William, son of John of Moggerhanger.

Robert Shepherd of Moggerhanger found pledges for the same reason: John Shepherd and Walter Despenser of Moggerhanger.

<sup>1</sup> If the coroner on the first inquest suspect concealment of truth, he should cause inquiry to be made again and again (Britton, fol. 4 b).

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 20, 1270.

. . . . .

Apellum.  
Mem. 2  
dorse

Auwisia uxor Nicholai de Coupol venit ad comitatum Bed' die Lune proxima post festum S. Laurencii anno regni regis lvi<sup>to</sup> et apel-  
lavit Robertum hominem celerarii de Neuham et Henricum fratrem  
ejus de pace fracta set non [elocutum]<sup>1</sup> apellum formavit nec dixit  
set tamen invenit plegios de proseguendo Robertum de Blunham et  
Galfridum Cofentin.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune ante Natale Beate Marie anno  
lvj<sup>to</sup> Hauwisia venit et sequitur<sup>2</sup> versus eos. Robertus et Henricus  
primo interrogati non venerunt.

Item ad comitatum Bed' die Lune proxima post festum Sancti  
Michaelis Hauwysia uxor Nicholai de Coupol multociens vocata non  
venit nec sequitur versus Robertum nec Henricum. Ideo per iudicium  
comitatus cessavit apellum.

. . . . .

#### HUNDREDUM DE STOTDEN'.

Mem. 3.  
Knotting'.  
Anno l<sup>o</sup>liij<sup>o</sup>

. . . Inquisicio facta coram Radulpho de Goudington' coronatore  
per iiij<sup>or</sup> vill' propinquiore, Knotting', Rist, Melcheburn', Yivelden',  
Dene, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Thomas Saly de Rist et  
Elena Seward de Melcheburn' melius sciunt veritatem illius occasionis  
quam aliqui alii et quod sine illis nullam veritatem inquirere possunt.  
Elena Seward venit coram coronatore et invenit plegios veniendi<sup>3</sup>  
coram justiciariis Johannem Forestarium de Melcheburn', Ambrocium  
Forestarium de eadem, David Sutorem de eadem, Willelmum Seward  
de eadem. Nulla Englescheria presentata. Postea presentatum fuit  
per dictas villatas quod Thomas Saly<sup>4</sup> nec Elena Seward non fuerunt  
culpabiles, set tamen idem Thomas invenit plegios Willelmum filium  
Laurencii de Rist, Symonem de Pertissoyl de eadem. Et dicunt quod  
ignoti fuerunt felones qui ipsam occiderunt.

<sup>1</sup> A word illegible; it looks like *eloc*'.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *ſ*.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *ven*'.

<sup>4</sup> *Sic*.

[There are eight other inquests in this hundred on the dorse of mem. 1 and 2 ; they are cases of homicide or accidental death in the years 54-56 Henry III.]

Hawise, wife of Nicholas of Cople, came to the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Lawrence in the fifty-sixth year of the king's reign and appealed Robert, the man of the cellarer of Newham, and Henry, his brother, of breaking the peace, but she did not set forth or formulate her appeal ; nevertheless, she found pledges to prosecute, namely, Robert of Blunham and Geoffrey of Cofentin.<sup>2</sup>

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> before the Nativity of Blessed Mary in the fifty-sixth year Hawise came and sued against them. Robert and Henry were exacted for the first time, but did not appear.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after Michaelmas Hawise, wife of Nicholas of Cople, having been called many times, did not come or sue against Robert and Henry. Therefore by judgment of the county the appeal ceased.

. . . . .

#### HUNDRED OF STODDEN.

[William, son of Page of Knotting, found the dead body of a woman. He raised the hue, and produced two sureties.] Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Knotting, Risely, Melchbourne, Yelden, Dean ; they say on oath that Thomas Sayle of Risely and Ellen Seward of Melchbourne know the truth about this affair better than any other persons, and that without them they cannot ascertain the truth. Ellen Seward came before the coroner and found pledges to appear before the justices ; [the pledges were] John Forester, Ambrose Forester, David Cobbler, William Seward, all of Melchbourne. No Englishry was presented. Afterwards the said townships presented that neither Thomas Sayle nor Ellen Seward was guilty ; nevertheless, Thomas found pledges : William, son of Lawrence, and Simon of Pertenhall, both of Risely. And [the townships] say that the felons who killed the woman are unknown.

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 15, 1272.

<sup>2</sup> Cotentin (?).

<sup>3</sup> Sept. 5, 1272.

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 3, 1272.

## REDBURNISTOK.

Mem. 5  
Merston

Willelmus de Werdal et Matilda uxor ejus capti apud Merston et ducti in pleno comitatu pro suspicione denarii capti apud Hanwems ad domum Johannis Timpan, dictus Rus <sup>1</sup> super hoc qui cognovit in pleno comitatu quod invenit viij. s. et x. d. quad' et quod habuit de denariis suis propriis iiij. s. Et nemo secutus fuit versus dictum Willelmum nec Matildam. Ideo per consideracionem totius comitatus denarii scilicet viij. s. et x. d. et quad' liberantur villate de Merston ubi capti fuerunt. Et dictus Willelmus et Matilda quieti recesserunt.

Apellum

Item ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune prox' ante Epiphaniam anno regni regis l<sup>o</sup>v<sup>to</sup> Hugo Gobiun, Ancellus filius Hugonis Gobiun, Rogerus Gobiun, Robertus Russel, Thomas le Keu primo interrogati per preceptum domini Regis in hec verba.

Henricus dei gracia vicecomiti Bedf' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod coram te et custodibus placitorum corone nostre in pleno comitatu exigi facias Hugonem, et Ancellum filium Hugonis Gobiun, Rogerum Gobiun, Robertum Russel, Thomam le Keu, de comitatu in comitatum quousque utlagantur <sup>2</sup> si non comparuerint, et si comparuerint eos capias et salvo custodias in prisa nostra ita quod eos habeas coram justiciariis nostris apud Westm' in crastino Asencionis Domini ad resspondendum Rogero Bratesun de placito roberie et pacis nostro fracte unde eos apellavit et unde mandasti <sup>3</sup> justiciariis nostris

<sup>1</sup> MS. dē̄s R<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> MS. mandast'.



[Seven more inquests by four vills are entered under this hundred on mem. 3 and 4; most of them relate to felonious assaults with fatal results. On mem. 4 there is also an appeal, made in 56 Henry III., by Roger Loring against John, son of William, son of Robert of Winchester, for assault. The appeal is repeated at the four ensuing county courts of Bedford, at each of which John is exacted. At the fourth exigent he produces his father as surety for his appearance at the next county court.]

## HUNDRED OF REDBORNESTOKE.

Marston

William of Wardle and Matilda, his wife, were arrested at Marston and brought into the full county court on suspicion as to certain money taken at Hawnes at the house of John Timpane called the Red [?], who, as to this confessed in full county court that he found 8s. 10½*d.*, and that he had 4s. of his own money. No one sued against William and Matilda. Therefore by the award of the whole county court the money, to wit 8s. 10½*d.*, was delivered to the township of Marston, where it had been taken, and William and Matilda withdrew acquitted.<sup>1</sup>

[Two inquests by four vills in cases of homicide, and one in a case of accidental death. There is also an inquest by the township of Houghton concerning the chattels of a person, presumably a felon.]

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before the Epiphany in the fifty-fifth year of the king's reign Hugh Gobion, Ansel, Hugh Gobion's son, Roger Gobion, Robert Russell, and Thomas Kew were exacted for the first time in accordance with the following precept of the king.

Henry by the grace of God [etc.] to the sheriff of Bedford greeting. We command that in the presence of yourself and our coroners in full county court you cause [the above-mentioned persons] to be exacted from county court to county court until they are outlawed, in case they do not appear; and if they do appear arrest them and detain them securely in our prison; and on the morrow of the Ascension of the Lord produce them before our justices at Westminster to answer Roger Bratesun in a plea of robbery and of the infraction of our peace, of which he has appealed them, and in connection with which plea you reported to our justices at West-

<sup>1</sup> The meaning of this entry is not very clear.

<sup>2</sup> Jan. 5, 1271.

apud Westm' in crastino Animarum quod predictus Hugo et alii non sunt inventi in ballivia vestra. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste M. de Litlebur' apud Westm' xij. die Novembris anno regni regis 1<sup>o</sup> quinto.

Item ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune prox' post Conversacionem <sup>1</sup> S. Pauli anno 1<sup>o</sup>v<sup>to</sup> Hugo et Ancellus, Rogerus, Robertus, Thomas secundo interrogati per dictum preceptum non venerunt.

Item ad comitatum die Lune in crastino S. Petri ad Cathedram anno 1<sup>o</sup>v<sup>to</sup> Hugo, Ancellus, Rogerus, Robertus, Thomas tercio interrogati non venerunt.

Item ad comitatum die Lune prox' ante Annunciacionem <sup>2</sup> Beate Marie anno 1<sup>o</sup>v<sup>to</sup> Hugo Gobiun manucepit Hugonem Gobiun filium suum, Willelmus Deymeleshoam [?] manucepit Ancellum Gobiun, Robertus de la Rydy manucepit Rogerum Gobiun, Johannes de Bosco manucepit Robertum Russel, Robertus de Harwold manucepit Thomam le Keu.

. . . . .

Mem. 6-7

#### HUNDREDUM DE MANNISEVED.

. . . . .

Mem. 6 d.-  
7 d.

#### HUNDREDUM DE BIKELESWADE.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *anucionem*.

minster on the morrow<sup>1</sup> of All Souls that the said Hugh and the other [appellees] could not be found in your bailiwick ; and have there this writ. Witness, Martin of Littlebury at Westminster on the twelfth day of November in the fifty-fifth year of the king's reign.<sup>2</sup>

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after the Conversion of St. Paul in the fifty-fifth year Hugh, Ansel, Roger, Robert, and Thomas were exacted a second time in accordance with the said precept, but they did not appear.

Also at the county court on Monday<sup>4</sup> the morrow of the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the fifty-fifth year Hugh, Ansel, Roger, Robert, and Thomas were exacted a third time, but they did not appear.

Also at the county court on Monday<sup>5</sup> next before Lady Day in the fifty-fifth year Hugh Gobion went surety for his son Hugh,<sup>6</sup> William Deymcleshoam for Ansel Gobion, Robert Rydy for Roger Gobion, John Atwood for Robert Russell, Robert of Harwold for Thomas Kew.

[Two inquests by four villis in cases of homicide.]

#### HUNDRED OF MANSHEAD.

[Two inquests in cases of accidental death. An appellee, after having been exacted in the county court four times, appears and finds sureties. Four townships make inquest concerning the value of the chattels of a fugitive thief. Another inquest regarding the chattels of a person. Four more inquests in cases of homicide, and another in a case of accidental death. In one of these, on mem. 7, the jurors say that they do not know who gave the wound ; afterwards in full county court the township of Husborne Crawley presents that Robert Wool inflicted the fatal wound ; Robert is appealed by the dead man's wife in three county courts. One of the inquests in this hundred was made by five townships.]

#### HUNDRED OF BIGGLESWADE.

[Seven cases of accidental death and four cases of homicide, 54-56 Henry III. In some of these inquests it is stated that each of the four neighbours finds two sureties.]

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 3.    <sup>2</sup> 1270.    <sup>3</sup> Jan. 26, 1271.

<sup>4</sup> Feb. 23, 1271.    <sup>5</sup> March 23, 1271.

<sup>6</sup> Surety for his appearance at the next county court.

Mem. 8-9  
and 9 d.

## HUNDREDUM DE WYLYE.

. . . . .

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Mem. 1.  
Parva  
Stoutona.  
Anno 19<sup>to</sup>

Contigit in Parva Stoutona die Jovis proxima post festum S. Barnebe<sup>2</sup> Apostoli quod homines ignoti et armati de comitatu Line' per Thomam de Buton' et homines de comitatu Hunttedon' per vicecomitem comitatus infra noctem secuti fuerunt Hugonem le Prest usque ad Parvam Stoutonam ad domum Rogeri del Temple et insultaverunt dictam domum in qua dictus Hugo erat cum Beatrice uxore Rogeri del Temple, ita quod quando dictus Hugo percepit quod domus insultata fuit et assessa<sup>3</sup> saltavit foris ad hostium versus occidentem et se defendebat, ita quod dicti homines ipsum interfecerunt et caput suum amputaverunt et postea levaverunt hutesium. Villata venit ad hutesium. Dicti homines tradiderunt caput dicti Hugonis villate ad assportandum ut de jure assportare deberent, et dixerunt villate quod fuerunt de comitatibus predictis et quod modo predicto ipsum Hugonem secuti fuerunt tanquam felonem et utlagatum in comitatu Line' et homicidam in comitatu Hunttedon'.

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudinton' coronatore per iiij<sup>or</sup> villatas propinquiores, Stouton', Pertinhal', Kayshoam, Colmord, que dicunt per sacramentum suum sicut predictum est et quod dictus Hugo fuit felonus et contra pacem domini Regis. Inquisitum fuit de catallis dicti Hugonis. Dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi de uno aketuno et de uno gladio<sup>4</sup> quod tunc tempore super ipsum optinuit et assportati fuerunt<sup>4</sup> per quos interfectus fuit, et unus equus qui inventus fuit in

<sup>1</sup> Roll 2, three membranes, 54-56 Henry III. All the entries on this roll, except the two here printed, are also to be

found on Roll 46. See above, p. 1, n. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> Reading doubtful.

<sup>4-4</sup> *Sic.*

## HUNDRED OF WILLEY.

[Nine inquests concerning accidental death, and four concerning homicide, 54-56 Henry III. In one of these cases the vills give their verdict 'conjunctim et separatim;' in another Englishry is presented. There are also three cases of appeal, each of which was continued in successive county courts; the absence of the appellee at the fourth exigent was punished with outlawry. Another entry refers to a thief in sanctuary who abjured the realm before the coroner and four vills.]

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

It happened in Little Staughton on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle that unknown and armed men from Lincolnshire [led] by Thomas of Bolton,<sup>2</sup> and men of Huntingdonshire [led] by the sheriff<sup>3</sup> of that county pursued Hugh Priest at night to the house of Roger of the Temple in Little Staughton; and they assaulted the said house, wherein were Hugh and Beatrice, wife of Roger of the Temple. And when Hugh saw that the house was being assaulted and beset, he sprang to the door on the west side and defended himself. Thereupon the said men killed him and cut off his head. Afterwards they raised the hue, and the township came to the hue. They then delivered Hugh's head to the township to carry away, as by law [the township] ought to do; and they told the township that they were from the aforesaid counties, and that they had pursued Hugh in the aforesaid manner as a felon and outlaw in the county of Lincoln and a murderer in the county of Huntingdon.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Staughton, Pertenhall, Keysoe, Colmworth; they say on their oath as is aforesaid, and that Hugh was a felon and had broken the king's peace. Inquiry was made concerning his chattels, and [the townships] say that they know only of a gambison and a sword, which he then [at the time of his death] had upon his person, and which were carried away by those who slew him, and a horse which was found on the morrow in the corn-fields of the Temple,

<sup>1</sup> June 18, 1271.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas de Boulton was sheriff of Lincolnshire in 56 Henry III. See the list

of sheriffs in the 31st Report of the Deputy Keeper (1870).

<sup>3</sup> Robert del Estre.



x. s. ff.<sup>1</sup>

crastino in bladis del Temple, et quod fuit equus dieti Hugonis felonis, et appreciatur ad x. s. et liberatur villate de Stouton'. Item inquisitum<sup>2</sup> de receptamento<sup>3</sup> suo, qui dicunt quod nichil sciunt nisi vero<sup>4</sup> inventus fuit cum dicta Beatrice que non audivit<sup>5</sup> nec potuit ipsum contradicere et ad domum le Keu de Stouton', que ipsum bene scivit esse felonem et spontanea voluntate ipsum receptavit.

Rokesdon'.  
Anno 1<sup>re</sup> 1<sup>re</sup>

Contigit in villa de Rokesdon' die Dominica proxima ante festum S. Margerete in summo mane quod Radulphus filius Willelmi le Bereher de Rokesden' ivit hora predicta sub bosco domini Humfredi de Bereford ex parte occidentali et custodivit ibidem vaccas et juvenecas, ita quod una juvenca noluit<sup>6</sup> ivisse in bosco, et dictus Radulphus perrexit in fossato bosci ad returnand' dictam juvenecam et ibi invenit in dicto fossato quendam hominem extraneum jacentem interfectum, et habuit unam plagam in capite ultra aurem sinistram longitudinis iiij<sup>or</sup> pollicium quod cerebrum exitum fuit. Et levavit hutesium et fuit prosecutum, et invenit plegios Rogerum le Beer de Rokesdon, Willelmum de Bereford.

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Goudinton coronatore per iiij<sup>or</sup> vill' propinquiores, Rokesdon', Bereford', Wilden', Kolesden', Scholvisterne pro una villata, que dicunt per sacramenta sua quod nullam habent noticiam interfecti nec sciunt quando interfectus fuit nec ubi nec unde venit set bene sciunt quod ibi non erat interfectus nec aliqua vestigia per que<sup>7</sup> ibi venire potuit inveniunt nec sciunt.

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| Vicini | { | Dominus Humfredus de Bereford j <sup>us</sup> vicinus invenit plegios Willelmum de Bereford, Willelmum Blanfrumt de Rokesdon'. |
|        |   | Rogerus le Beer ij <sup>us</sup> vicinus invenit plegios Johannem le <sup>s</sup> Bruttewill', Henricum Cunterel.              |
|        |   | Willelmus Blanfrumt iij <sup>us</sup> vicinus invenit plegios Henricum Deaconum et Johannem Rowe.                              |
|        |   | Robertus Ateputtes iiij <sup>us</sup> vicinus invenit plegios Rogerum le Beer et Henricum le Dekene.                           |

<sup>1</sup> ff. = forisfacti (?).<sup>2</sup> MS. *inquisit'*.<sup>3</sup> MS. *recept'*.<sup>4</sup> MS. *u'*; the reading might be *ubi* or *ut*.<sup>5</sup> *Sic.*<sup>7</sup> MS. *q<sup>a</sup>*.<sup>6</sup> *Corr. voluit* (?).<sup>8</sup> *Sic.*

and which [the townships say] belonged to the said felon; and the horse is appraised at ten shillings and is delivered to the township of Staughton. Also inquiry was made concerning those who harboured him, and [the townships] say that they know nothing [about this] except that he was found at the house [called] the Kew of Staughton <sup>1</sup> with the said Beatrice, who dared not and could not deny this,<sup>2</sup> and she well knew that he was a felon, and she harboured him of her own free will.

Roxton.  
55 Henry  
III.

It happened in the vill of Roxton early in the morning on Sunday <sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Margaret that Ralph, son of William Shepherd of Roxton, was going along the western part of the wood of Sir Humphrey of Barford, having charge of certain cows and heifers. One heifer would [not] go into the wood, and Ralph entered a ditch of the wood to turn the heifer back [to its mates], and in that ditch he found the dead body of a certain man, a stranger, who had a wound four inches long on the head above the left ear, and the brains had exuded from it. [Ralph] raised the hue, and the hue was pursued. He produced pledges: Roger Beer of Roxton and William of Barford.

Inquest was made before Ralph of Goldington, the coroner, by four neighbouring townships, Roxton, Barford, Wilden, and Coldsden and Chawston as one township; they say on their oath that they know nothing about the slain man, nor do they know when or where he was killed, nor whence he came, but they well know that he was not killed there, nor can they find or obtain knowledge of any tracks made by him in coming there.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Neighbours { | Sir Humphrey of Barford, the first neighbour, finds pledges: William of Barford, William Blanchfront of Roxton. |
|              | Roger Beer, the second neighbour, finds pledges: John Brettville, Henry Cointerel.                              |
|              | William Blanchfront, the third neighbour, finds pledges: Henry Deacon and John Rowe.                            |
|              | Robert Atwell, the fourth neighbour, finds pledges: Roger Beer and Henry Deacon.                                |

<sup>1</sup> The house of Kew of Staughton (?)

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps the Latin should be translated:

'who dared not and could not refuse to receive him.'

<sup>3</sup> July 19, 1271.

[BEDFORDSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 2

Placita corone presentata ad comitatum Bedf. . . .

. . . . .

Item ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune proxima post festum S. Laurencii anno ij. Matilda venit et sequebatur,<sup>2</sup> et Johannes Prior de Sancto Neotho et alii primo interrogati non venerunt.

Item ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune prox' ante Nativitatem Beate Marie Matilda venit. Johannes Prior et alii secundo interrogati non venerunt.

Item ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune prox' post festum S. Michaelis Matilda non venit nec sequebatur apellum suum versus predictos et sic cessavit apellum.

Placita corone presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post Translacionem Sancti Thome Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi primo.

Hattcle

Willelmus de Toft de comitatu Cantebr' ductus in pleno comitatu pro suspecione<sup>3</sup> unius bidentis fur', et idem Willelmus dixit quod bidens fuit proprium catallum suum et emit apud Cantebrug' quando non fuit superannatus. Ideo . . .<sup>4</sup> venit de gayhola . . .<sup>5</sup> precium bidentis xij. d. et liberatur<sup>6</sup> ville de Hattcle.

. . . . .

Placita corone presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum S. Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi iij°.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Roll 3, fourteen membranes, 1-3 Edw. I. Most of the entries are inquests by four vills concerning death by accident or felonious assault. They are similar to those in the preceding rolls, but are briefer. The finder of the body produces sureties. The four 'vicini' are mentioned in only a few cases. In one case two neighbours find

sureties. A few entries relate to appeals and to abjurations of felons in sanctuary. The matter is arranged under hundreds in the form of presentations in various county courts of Bedford—'Placita corone presentata ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune,' etc.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *seq'*.

<sup>3</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>4</sup> An abrasion.

<sup>5</sup> Illegible.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *lib'*.

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford. . . .

[Matilda came into the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 2 Edward I., and appealed various persons for the death of her brother.]

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Lawrence in the second year Matilda came and sued, and John Prior of St. Neots and the other [appellees] were exacted for the first time, but did not appear.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> next before the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, Matilda appeared. John Prior and the others were exacted a second time, but did not appear.

Also at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after Michaelmas Matilda did not appear and did not prosecute her appeal against the aforesaid persons, and thus the appeal was discontinued.<sup>5</sup>

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>6</sup> next after the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr in the first year of King Edward.

William Toft, of the county of Cambridge, was brought before the full county court [of Bedford] on suspicion of stealing a sheep, and he said that the sheep was his own chattel, and that he had purchased it at Cambridge when it was not more than a year old. Therefore . . . he was released from gaol. . . . The sheep was worth twelve pence, and it is delivered to the vill of Hatley.

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>7</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the third year of King Edward.

[Inquest before the coroner and four vills in a case of homicide.]

<sup>1</sup> July 9, 1274.

<sup>2</sup> August 13, 1274.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p. 11, n. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Sept. 3, 1274.

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 1, 1274.

<sup>6</sup> July 10, 1273.

<sup>7</sup> Feb. 25, 1275.

Appellum

Cecilia uxor Hugonis de Holecote venit in pleno comitatu die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi tercio et appellavit Godefridum le Stedeman eo quod idem Godefridus die Dominica prox' post Exaltacionem Sancte Crucis cito post nonam anno predicto venit in villa de Capella ad hostium Hugonis Rachel cum una achia apik' de ferro et acera et unde manubrium fuit de coudra, et insultavit Robertum de la Felde fratrem predictæ Cecilie nequiter ut felonus contra pacem domini regis et percussit dictum Robertum juxta grevam capitis, ita quod cerebrum effudit et statim obiit de dicta plaga inter brachia dictæ Cecilie. Eadem Cecilia appellavit Willelmum Pistorem de Newport eo quod idem Willelmus tenuit dictum Robertum per brachium sinistrum dummodo dictus Godefridus predictum Robertum interfecit, et idem Willelmus hoc fecit nequiter ut felonus et contra pacem domini regis. Eadem Cecilia appellavit Hugonem Rachel de Capella eo quod dictus Hugo receptavit dictos felones post dictam feloniam factam videlicet Godefridum et Willelmum. Et predicta Cecilia offert probare versus predictos felones videlicet Godefridum, Willelmum et Hugonem quod istam feloniam fecerunt nequiter ut felones insultu premeditato et contra pacem domini regis et disracionare secundum quod mulier debet vel potest et secundum quod curia domini regis consideraverit. Dicta Cecilia recenter levavit hutesium et fuit prosectum de villa ad villam et sic ad vicecomitem et coronatorem et ad comitatum, et invenit plegios de proseguendo Hugonem de Holocote<sup>1</sup> virum suum, Johannem de la Felde de Godinfeld [?].

Ad comitatum Bed' die Lune in festo Apostolorum Simonis et Jude Cecilia venit et sequebatur<sup>2</sup> appellum suum. Godefridus le Stedeman, Willelmus [et Hugo<sup>3</sup>] primo interrogati non venerunt. Ideo per judicium comitatus habent diem in unam<sup>4</sup> mensem.

Mem. 7

Ad istum comitatum Robertus de Crevequer prestitit sacramentum in pleno comitatu ad faciend' [etc.].

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Sic.<sup>2</sup> MS. seq'.<sup>3</sup> An abrasion.<sup>4</sup> Sic.



Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, came into the full county court on Monday next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the third year of King Edward, and appealed Godfrey Steadman, for that soon after none on Sunday <sup>1</sup> next after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the aforesaid year Godfrey came to the door of Hugh Rachel's house in the vill of Chapel, and with a pickaxe of iron and steel (the handle whereof was of hazel) assaulted Robert Field, Cecily's brother, wickedly, feloniously, and against the king's peace, and struck him near the parting of the hair, so that his brains flowed forth, and he died at once in Cecily's arms by reason of the said wound. Cecily also appealed William Baker of Newport, for that he held Robert by the left arm while Godfrey slew him, and the said William did this as a felon wickedly and against the king's peace. Cecily also appealed Hugh Rachel of Chapel, for that after the said felony had been committed, he harboured the said felons, to wit, Godfrey and William. And she offers to prove against all of them, to wit, Godfrey, William, and Hugh, that they committed the act as felons, wickedly, with premeditated assault, and against the king's peace, and she offers to deraign this according as a woman ought or can, and according as the court of the king shall award. Cecily at once raised the hue, and the hue was pursued from vill to vill, and so to the sheriff and to the coroner and to the county court. She found pledges to prosecute: Hugh of Holcot, her husband, and John Field of Godinfield.<sup>2</sup>

At the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude, Cecily came and prosecuted her appeal. Godfrey Steadman, William, and Hugh were exacted for the first time, but did not appear. Therefore, by judgment of the county court, they were given a day a month hence.

At that same court Robert of Crevequer<sup>4</sup> swore in full county court to do [all things which pertain to the office of coroner.]<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 16, 1274, 3 P.M.

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps Godfield or Gosfield.

<sup>3</sup> Oct. 28, 1275.

<sup>4</sup> *I.e.* Crèveœur.

<sup>5</sup> For the coroner's oath of office, see the Introduction.

## ADHUC HUNDREDUM DE FLITTE.

Mem. 12 Placita corone presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' post festum S. Gregorii anno regni regis Edwardi tereio.

[BEDFORDSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1 PRIMUS ROTULUS R. LE<sup>2</sup> CREVCERR CORONATORIS TEMPORE H. DE STAPLEFORD VICECOMITIS.

Dereford Placita coronatoris<sup>3</sup> presentata ad comitatum Bedford die Lune in festo Sancto Katerine Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

Cesilia<sup>4</sup> uxor Hugonis de Holecote venit ad comitatum die Lune in festo S. Katerine Virginis et sequebatur apellum suum versus Godefridum le Stedeman, Hugonem Rachel, qui fuerunt secundo interrogati per apellum suum pro morte Roberti fratris sui, et cessavit de apello suo versus Willelmum Pistorem de Newport.

Ricardus le Messer venit ad istum comitatum et petiit pacem domini regis de Euerardo de Buston', Ricardo le Wodeward, eo quod minabantur ei de vita et membris et ipsum verberaverant et male tractaverant, et duxit sectam. Ideo preceptum est quod atachientur veniendi<sup>5</sup> ad proximum comitatum vadiare<sup>6</sup> ei pacem.

<sup>1</sup> Roll 4, five membranes sewn end to end so as to form one strip, 4 Edw. I.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *veniend'*.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *vad'*.

HUNDRED OF FLITT (*continued*).

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Gregory in the third year of King Edward's reign.

[Inquest concerning the death of Thomas Cook was made by four neighbouring townships<sup>2</sup> before the coroner. They say that Ralph Othy struck Thomas, but this blow did not cause his death. Afterwards in full county court a second inquest was made before the sheriff and the coroner by twelve men; they say that Thomas died by reason of the said blow.]

## [BEDFORDSHIRE.]

FIRST ROLL OF R. CREVEQUER, CORONER, IN THE TIME OF  
H. DE STAPLEFORD, SHERIFF.

Pleas of the coroner presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. Catherine the Virgin, in the fourth year of King Edward.

[An inquest before the coroner by four neighbouring vills in a case of accidental death. In two other entries two persons find sureties to keep the peace.]

Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, came to the county court on Monday the feast of St. Catherine the Virgin, and prosecuted her appeal against Godfrey Steadman and Hugh Rachel, and they were exacted the second time on her appeal for the death of Robert, her brother; but she discontinued her appeal against William Baker of Newport.

Richard Reaper came to this court and sought the king's peace of Everard of Beeston and Richard Woodward, for that they threatened him of life and limb, and had beaten and ill-treated him; he produced his suit. Hence it was ordered that they be attached to come to the next county court to wage peace to him.

<sup>1</sup> March 18, 1275.<sup>2</sup> The names of five or six townships are given.<sup>3</sup> Nov. 25, 1275.

Placita coronatoris presentata ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune prox'  
ante Natale Domini anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

. . . . .

Cecilia uxor Hugonis de Holecote venit ad comitatum Bedf' die  
Lune prox' ante Nativitatem Domini anno regni regis Edwardi quarto  
et sequebatur apellum suum versus Godefridum le Stedeman,  
Hugonem Rachel, qui fuerunt tercio interrogati pro morte fratris sui.

. . . . .

Walterus Weysum, Michael Rachel manuceperunt Hugonem Rachel  
tercio interrogatum veniendi<sup>1</sup> ad proximum comitatum per apellum  
Cecilie uxoris Hugonis de Holecote pro morte Roberti fratris sui.

Ewerardus de Buston' venit ad istum comitatum et radiavit<sup>2</sup>  
pacem Ricardo Fader de Buston' et invenit ei plegios Johannem  
Dendene, Galfridum de Buston'.

Placita coronatoris presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox'  
post festum Sancti Illarii anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

. . . . .

Ricardus filius Willelmi de Bideham congnoxit coram coronator'  
quod subscripti domum Willelmi Jon de Bideham noctanter et furtive  
fregerunt et omnia bona dieti Willelmi et ejusdem Ricardi asporta-  
verunt et nervos tibiaram suarum syderunt<sup>3</sup> vedelicet<sup>4</sup> Ricardus le  
Vaus de Turveye, Radulphus frater ejus, Henricus Compray de eadem,  
Walterus Engel de eadem.

Cecilia uxor Hugonis de Holegote venit ad comitatum de Bed' die  
Lune prox' post festum Sancti Illarii anno regni regis Edwardi quarto  
et sequebatur apellum suum versus Godefridum le Stedeman et  
Hugonem Rachel qui manuecaptus fuit veniend' ad istum comitatum  
pro morte Roberti fratris sui, qui venit ad istum comitatum et

<sup>1</sup> MS. veniend'.

<sup>2</sup> MS. rad'.

<sup>3</sup> sciderunt.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.

Pleas of the coroner presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before Christmas in the fourth year of King Edward.

[An inquest by four vills in a case of accidental death.]

Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, came to the county court of Bedford on Monday next before Christmas in the fourth year of King Edward, and prosecuted her appeal against Godfrey Steadman and Hugh Rachel, and they were exacted the third time for the death of her brother.

[An inquest by four vills in a case of accidental death.]

Walter Weysum<sup>2</sup> and Michael Rachel went surety for the appearance at the next county court of Hugh Rachel, exacted a third time on the appeal of Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, for the death of her brother Robert.

Everard of Beeston came to this county court and waged peace to Richard Father of Beeston, and found pledges for him, John Dendon and Geoffrey of Beeston.

Pleas of the coroner presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. Hilary in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Two inquests by four vills in cases of accidental death.]

Richard, son of William of Biddenham, avowed before the coroner that the persons mentioned below broke into the house of William John of Biddenham furtively and at night, and carried away all of William's and Richard's goods, and cut the sinews of his [Richard's] legs, to wit, Richard Vaux of Turvey, Ralph his brother, Henry Compray of Turvey, Walter Engel of Turvey.

Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, came to the county court of Bedford on Monday next after the feast of St. Hilary in the fourth year of King Edward and prosecuted her appeal against Godfrey Steadman and Hugh Rachel for the death of Robert, her brother. Hugh Rachel, who had been mainprised to come to this county court,

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 23, 1275.

<sup>2</sup> Wason or Wesson.

<sup>3</sup> Jan. 20, 1276.



<sup>1</sup> liberabatur vicecomiti<sup>1</sup> ad gaholam, et Radulphus le Laner de Bed' manucepit Godefredum le Stedeman ad habendum cum ad proximum comitatum, qui est quarto interrogatus per apellum dicte Cecilie pro morte Roberti fratris sui.

Johannes Moryn vadiavit<sup>2</sup> pacem priorisse de Harewold et invenit ei plegios Radulphum de Fraxino et Henekyn de Harewold.

Ricardus filius Willelmi de Bideham et Willelmus Jon de eadem venerunt ad comitatum et sequebantur versus Walterum Engel qui captus fuit et ductus in plenum comitatum quia robiavit eos et maynavit eos, et invenerunt plegios de proseguendo videlicet Paganum de Ford, Thomam filium Marsil' de Bydeham, qui fuerunt plegii amborum.

Mem. 2

Placita coronatoris<sup>3</sup> presentata ad comitatum Bedf' die Lune ante festum S. Petri ad Cathedram anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

Item ad illum comitatum predicto die ac anno Cecilia uxor Hugonis de Holecote venit et sequebatur apellum suum versus Godefridum le Stedeman. Dictus Godefridus manucaptus et quinto interrogatus non venit, set breve domini regis vicecomiti Bedford' fuit directum quod omnia que continebantur in magna carta, tenerentur, in qua carta contenta<sup>4</sup> fuit quod nullus caperetur pro appello mulieris nisi pro morte viri sui, et apellum fuit pro morte Roberti fratris sui. Et ita per judicium comitatus cessavit utlagaria de dicto Godefrido, set tamen data fuit dies dicte Cecilie veniend' coram justiciariis.

Placita corone<sup>5</sup> presentata ad com' Bedeford' die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Gregorii Pape anno supradicto.

Railburne-  
stoke

Hugo de Sancto Edwardo petiit pacem domini regis de Johanne Enslye. Dominus Johannes presens vadiavit pacem dicto Hugoni et

<sup>1</sup> MS. lib' ric'.

<sup>2</sup> MS. vad'.

<sup>3</sup> MS. coron'.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.

<sup>5</sup> Sic.

appeared, and was delivered to the sheriff for commitment to gaol. Godfrey Steadman was exacted the fourth time on the appeal of Cecily for the death of Robert, her brother; and Ralph Laner of Bedford became surety to produce him at the next county court.

John Morin waged peace to the prioress of Harwood, and found pledges for her, Ralph Ash and Hankin of Harwood.

Richard, son of William of Biddenham, and William John of the same place came to the county court and sued against Walter Engel, who had been arrested and had been brought to the full county court because he had robbed and maimed them; and they found pledges to prosecute, namely, Pagan of Ford and Thomas, son of Marsilius of Biddenham, who were pledges for both [the appellors].

Pleas of the coroner presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> before the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Two inquests by four vills.]

Also at the county court on the aforesaid day of the said year Cecily, wife of Hugh of Holcot, came and prosecuted her appeal against Godfrey Steadman. The said Godfrey, who had been mainprised [at the last county court], was now exacted for the fifth time, and he did not appear. But a writ of the lord king was sent to the sheriff [ordering him to see] that all the enactments of the Great Charter<sup>2</sup> be observed, and the Charter enacts that no person should be arrested on the appeal of a woman save for the death of her husband,<sup>3</sup> but [Cecily's] appeal is for the death of Robert, her brother. Hence by the judgment of the county outlawry was not proclaimed against Godfrey; nevertheless, a day was given to Cecily to appear before the justices.

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the above-mentioned year.

[Two inquests by four vills in cases of accidental death.]

Hugh of St. Edward's sought the king's peace of John Endsleigh. Sir John was present, and waged peace to Hugh; the pledges whom

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 17, 1276.

<sup>2</sup> Ch. 54; Stubbs, *Sel. Charters*, 303.

<sup>3</sup> See above, p. 11, n. 6.

<sup>4</sup> March 16, 1276.

invenit ei plegios de pace Andream de Wroxhulle et Hugonem Brun de Wottounne.

Hugo de Sancto Edwardo et Willelmus Freman de Wottunne venerunt in pleno comitatu et petierunt pacem domini regis de Willelmo Astel de Wottunne eo quod minabatur eis de vita et membr' de combustione domorum, et habuerunt sectam, et preceptum fuit quod dictus Willelmus Astel attachietur.

Placita coronatoris<sup>1</sup> presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante festum S. Georgii Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

. . . . .

Johannes Spendelowe qui subscribitur ductus in plenum comitatum primo die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Georgii Martiris anno regni regis [quarto]. . . .

Stoddene.  
Mem. 3

Inquisicio facta coram R. de Crevker coronatore per iij. villatas, Tilbroc, Dene, Perthenhale, de bonis Eustachii Putthe de Tyllbroc quia abjuraverat rengnum regis apud Spaudinges eo quod captus fuit pro suspecione<sup>2</sup> latrocinii et positus in prisona domini regis apud Hodingdone, et dictam prisonam fregit et fugit apud Spaldewyk et ibi captus fuit in libertate episcopi Lincolniensis, et fregit prisonam episcopi et fugit ad ecclesiam de Spaldewik et ibi secundum consuetudinem Anglie abjuraverat<sup>3</sup> rengnum regis. . . .

. . . . .

Placita corone<sup>4</sup> presentata ad comitatum de Bed' die Lune prox' ante Ascensionem Domini anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> MS. cor'.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.

John found to preserve the peace toward Hugh were Andrew of Wroxhall and Hugh Brown of Wootton.

Hugh of St. Edward's and William Freeman of Wootton came to the full county court and sought the king's peace of William Astel of Wootton, for that he threatened them of life and limb [and] with the burning of their houses. They produced suit, and it was ordered that William Astel be attached.

Pleas of the coroner presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. George the Martyr in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Two cases of accidental death, in one of which there is no mention of an inquest.]

John Spendlove, who is mentioned below, was brought into the full county court for the first time on Monday next before the feast of St. George the Martyr in the [fourth] year of King Edward. [He belongs to the county of Rutland, but was captured with stolen property in Huntingdonshire, and was placed in gaol at Bedford. He confesses his guilt, and accuses twelve persons as accessories.]

[Hundred  
of] Stoddan

Inquest was made before R. of Crevequer, the coroner, by three townships, Tilbrook, Dean, Pertenhall, concerning the goods of Eustace Putthe<sup>2</sup> of Tilbrook, for that he had abjured the king's realm at Spaldwick. He did this because he was arrested on suspicion of larceny and was placed in the king's prison at Huntingdon [?]; he escaped from the said prison and fled to Spaldwick, where he was arrested in the liberty of the bishop of Lincoln; he again broke the prison of the bishop and fled to the church of Spaldwick, and there he abjured the king's realm according to the custom of England. [The vills then appraise the year and waste of his house and lands,<sup>3</sup> and also state the value of his movables.]

[One man seeks the king's peace from another: the latter is required to find two pledges to keep the peace.]

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>4</sup> next before the Ascension of the Lord in the fourth year of King Edward.

[An inquest by four vills in a case of accidental death.]

<sup>1</sup> April 20, 1276. <sup>2</sup> Wells or Atwell. <sup>3</sup> Cf. *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 40. <sup>4</sup> May 11, 1276.

Abjuratio.  
Manuceved

Contigit apud Houttune die Lune prox' ante festum S. Marci Evangeliste anno regni regis Edwardi quarto quod Johannes filius Willelmi de Westfeld de willa de Winringe in comitatu Hertteford' fuit messenarius<sup>1</sup> in villa de Houttune, ita quod pro suspicione latrocinii captus fuit et imprisonatus per villatam de Houttune de libertate de Eytune, et de priona villate evasit et fugit ad ecclesiam de Houttune de eadem libertate. Et die Lune proxima sequente coram P. le Loreng coronatore et quatuor vill' propinquior' scilicet Houttune, Thoternho, Tulesworthe, Chaugrave, et ballivo<sup>2</sup> domini regis abjuravit regnum regis secundum consuetudinem rengni et datus fuit ei portus de Dover, eo quod cognovit se coram coronatore et iiij<sup>or</sup> will' predictis fuisse latronem videlicet ad roberiam domini Willelmi de Gorraham apud Westwik in comitatu Hertteford' et noluit venire ad pacem domini regis, et eodem die transmigravit et arripuit iter suum et secutus fuit per Willelmum de Houttune extra iter suum fugiendo et huthesio<sup>3</sup> et secta tocius ville fuit decollatus per villatam de Houttune. . . .

Placita corone<sup>4</sup> presentata ad comitatum Bed' die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

Mem. 4

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> MS. balliv'.

<sup>3</sup> MS. huthes'.

<sup>4</sup> MS. coron'.



It happened at Houghton on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the fourth year of King Edward that John, son of William of Westfield, of the vill of Winring in the county of Hertford, was hayward in the vill of Houghton, and he was arrested on suspicion of larceny and was imprisoned by the township of Houghton in the liberty of Eyton, and he escaped from the prison of that township and fled to the church of Houghton in the same liberty. On the following Monday he abjured the king's realm, according to the custom of the kingdom, before P. Loring, the coroner, and four neighbouring townships, Houghton, Totternhoe, Tilsworth, Chalgrove, and before the king's bailiff, and the port of Dover was assigned to him; for he confessed before the coroner and the four townships that he was a thief, and that he had robbed Sir William of Gorham at Westwick in Hertfordshire, and he would not submit to the king's peace.<sup>2</sup> On the same day [of his abjuration] he came forth [from sanctuary] and proceeded on his way [toward Dover]. He fled from the highway,<sup>3</sup> and was followed by William of Houghton; and on the hue and the suit of the whole vill he was beheaded by the township of Houghton. [The four vills then appraise John's personal property, which is placed in charge of the vill of Houghton. They also say that he has chattels at Dunstable, and the coroners of Dunstable are requested to make inquest concerning those chattels.]

[Two persons find sureties to keep the peace toward each other.]

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the fourth year of King Edward.

[An inquest before P. Loring by four vills in a case of homicide. The first finder of the body produces two pledges, as does also each of the four neighbours. The four vills appraise the chattels of the felons.

Three more inquests by four vills in cases of accidental death.]

<sup>1</sup> April 20, 1276.

<sup>2</sup> He refused to come forth from sanctuary and stand trial.

<sup>3</sup> Bracton, fol. 136, says that a person who has abjured the realm is interdicted from leaving the king's highway, and from

delaying anywhere for two nights; but he must always continue along the straight road to the port, so that he shall be there at the appointed day. Cf. Britton, fol. 25 b; *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 59.

<sup>4</sup> June 8, 1276.

Placita corone presentata ad com' Bed' die Lune prox' ante festum  
Sancti Thome Martiris anno rengni regis Edwardi quarto.

. . . . .

Placita corone<sup>1</sup> presentata ad com' Bed' die Lune prox' post Vincula  
S. Petri anno regni regis Edwardi quarto.

Mem. 5

. . . . .

Mem. 2 d. Placita corone ad com' Bed' presentata die Lune prox' post  
festum Decollacionis Sancti Johannis anno regni regis Edwardi  
quarto.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> MS. *coron'*.

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Inquest before P. Loring by four vills ; a man was assaulted, and died after having had the rites of the church ; four neighbours and the finder are attached ; the felon's chattels are appraised.

Certain persons mentioned in a royal writ come to the county court and seek the king's peace against Sir Ralph of Beauchamp ; Ralph finds sureties to keep the peace.]

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after St. Peter's Chains in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Inquest before P. Loring by four vills. Walter of Willingale cut down a tree, and in falling it killed a girl. He then carried her body into the woods and did not raise the hue. Therefore the bailiff of the hundred was ordered to arrest Walter, who at once fled.

Two inquests by four vills in cases of accidental death, and three entries concerning persons who find sureties to keep the peace.]

Pleas of the crown presented at the county court of Bedford on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of the Decollation of St. John in the fourth year of King Edward.

[Hundred of Redbornestoke. Inquest before P. Loring by four vills in a case of robbery and fatal assault. The finder and each of the four neighbours produce sureties.

Liberty of Luton. Inquest by four vills in a case of accidental death.

Hundred of Manshead. A woman killed her husband. Inquest was made before the coroner by four vills. She sought sanctuary, confessed her crime before the coroner and the four vills, and abjured the realm ; the port of Dover was assigned to her ; her chattels were appraised.

Hundred of Biggleswade. Inquest before P. Loring by four vills in a case of accidental death.

Inquest before R. of Crevequer in a case of accidental death ; and another inquest before P. Loring in a case of fatal assault.]

<sup>1</sup> July 6, 1276.

<sup>2</sup> August 3, 1276.

<sup>3</sup> August 31, 1276.

[BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 2

Contigit apud Bekenesfeld die Veneris proxima ante festum Sancti Laurencii anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto quod Johannes atte Felde de Bekenesfeld invenit j. hominem mortuum in quadam venella juxta Aldermesfeld et croftum vocatum Edwardescroft' in predicta villa et statim levavit hutesium, pl' Simon' West et Walt' West, nullam habens<sup>2</sup> plagam sed in parte dilaceratus cum canibus. Primus vicinus videlicet Thomas Derwyne invenit plegios videlicet Johannem Blyk et Willelmus<sup>2</sup> Blyk. Secundus vicinus videlicet Andreas Smyth' invenit pl' videlicet Joh' Duk et Willelmus<sup>2</sup> Duk. Tercius vicinus Galfridus Barnewyne invenit pl' videlicet Willelmus<sup>2</sup> Norman et Joh' Barnewyne. Quartus vicinus videlicet Joh' le Tayllor invenit pl' videlicet Willelmum atte Hayche et Thomam atte Naisch'.

Quatuor villate propinquoires videlicet Bekenesfeld, Woubourn', Penne et Chalfont Sancti Egidii presentant quod duo extranei homines obviaverunt simul unde unus nominabatur Henricus Gibel, et dicunt<sup>3</sup> idem Henricus Gibel percuciebat alium extraneum cum uno cultello in corpore per quod recepit mortem suam. Precium dicti cultelli j d. Et predictus Henricus Gibel statim fugiebat. Et quod non habuit aliqua catalla.

Henr' Gibel  
extraneus

Duodecim juratores videlicet Walterus atte Grove et socii sui presentant quod quidam extraneus homo vocatus Henricus Gibel obviavit alteri homini extraneo in quodam loco inter Aldemeresfeld et croftum vocatum Edwardescroft in parochia de Bekenesfeld, et ibidem dictus Henricus insultum fecit alteri extraneo et ipsum percuciebat cum uno cultello in corpore per quod recipiebat mortem suam et statim fugiebat, et est precium cultelli j d.

Contigit apud Stone quod die Mercurii prox' post festum S. Augustini anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xxxvij<sup>o</sup> Johannes Meresden invenit quendam puerum Johannam<sup>4</sup> nomine mortuum<sup>4</sup> que<sup>4</sup> fuit per aquam bulliantem existentem<sup>5</sup> in quadam olla enea. Plegii predicti Johannis Johannes Moisant et Robertus Morti'.

Quatuor propinquoires videlicet Henricus,<sup>6</sup> Robertus Fernclourgh

<sup>1</sup> Roll 12, thirty-one membranes, 36-41  
Edw. III.

<sup>2</sup> Sic. <sup>3</sup> Supply *quod*. <sup>4</sup> Sic.  
<sup>5</sup> MS. *enast*'. <sup>6</sup> Surname not in MS.

## [BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.]

It happened at Beaconsfield on Friday <sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Lawrence in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third that John Atfield of Beaconsfield found a man dead in a lane near Aldmeresfield and a croft called Edwardscroft in the said vill [of Beaconsfield], and he at once raised the hue. His pledges were Simon West and Walter West. The dead man had no wound, but he had been somewhat lacerated by dogs. The first neighbour, Thomas Derwin, found pledges: John Blick and William Blick. The second neighbour, Andrew Smith, found pledges: John Duke and William Duke. The third neighbour, Geoffrey Barnewine, found pledges: William Norman and John Barnewine. The fourth neighbour, John Taylor, found pledges: William atte Hatch and Thomas atte Nash.

Four neighbouring townships, Beaconsfield, Woburn, Penn, and Chalfont St. Giles, present that two strangers met, and one of them, whose name is Henry Gibel, struck the other in the body with a knife, and thus he came to his death. The knife was worth a penny. The said Henry Gibel fled forthwith. And [the townships say] that he had no chattels.

Twelve jurors, to wit, Walter atte Grove and his fellows, present that a certain stranger called Henry Gibel met another stranger in a certain place between Aldmeresfield and Edwardscroft in the parish of Beaconsfield, and there the said Henry assaulted the other stranger, and struck him in the body with a knife, by which means he came to his death; and [Henry] fled forthwith; and the knife was worth a penny.

It happened at Stone on Wednesday <sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Augustine in the thirty-seventh year of King Edward the Third that John Marston found the dead body of a child called Joan, whose death was caused by the boiling water in a brass pot. His pledges are John Moisant and Robert Mortimer].

The four neighbours are Henry, Robert Fernelourgh <sup>3</sup> junior,

<sup>1</sup> August 5, 1362.

<sup>2</sup> May 31, 1363.

<sup>3</sup> Fernelough or Ferneliff.



junior, Willelmus Godale et Henricus le Rous junior. Plegii predictorum alter alterius.

Infortunium

Quatuor villate propinquiores videlicet Stone, Stokemaundevill', Byssopeston' et Douynton' presentant quod die Veneris prox' ante festum Pentecostes erat <sup>1</sup>quoddam potum<sup>1</sup> super focum plenum aque bulliante<sup>2</sup> et una<sup>3</sup> pes predictae olle posit' erat super quandam petram et cecidit de petra et aqua bullians cecidit super Johannam filiam Nicholai Ros etate dimidii anni et parum plus per quam predicta Johanna recepit mortem. Precium predictae olle ij. s.

. . . . .

Mem. 14

Contigit apud Riseborgh' Principis die Dominica prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxviij. quod Johannes Wynchestr' invenit quemdam puerum mortuum apud Losleë in villa predicta et statim levavit hutesium. Plegii predicti Johannis Willelmus Heryng et Galfridus Bathe.

Quatuor vicini propinquiores Henricus Marchal, Nicholaus Kittel, Nicholaus Carpenter et Hugo Kyppyng' plegii alter alterius.

Infortunium

Quatuor villate propinquiores videlicet Riseborgh' Monachorum, Horssyndon', Kynebell' et Ryseborgh' Principis presentant quod die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi anno supradicto Henricus filius Ricardi Carpenter etate duorum annorum cecidit in quodam vase plena<sup>4</sup> aque boliante<sup>5</sup> per quod recepit mortem.

Inquisicio capta die et anno supradictis per sacramentum Willelmi Petipas, Roberti Ware, Roberti Ocladde, Thome Cordiwaner, Hugonis Hawys, Nicholai Kytel, Hugonis Kyppyng', Roberti Smyth, Nicholai Carpenter, Roberti Chobbe, Henrici Bremor et Johannis Sout[er]e, qui dicunt quod Henricus filius Ricardi Carpenter etate duorum annorum de Loslee in parochia de Ryseborgh' Principis die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno supradicto cecidit in quodam vase pleno aque boliantis in domo predicti Ricardi et ibidem scaldiatus fuit per quod recepit mortem.

Mem. 15

Contigit apud Brehull' die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Petri in<sup>6</sup> advineula anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xxxix. quod Johannes Pope invenit quemdam hominem mortuum habentem plagam in pectore et statim levavit hutesium. Plegii predicti Johannis Thomas Moryse et Thomas North.

iii<sup>or</sup> villate presentant quod Johannes Sadeler die Sabbati prox'

<sup>1-1</sup> MS. *q'dam pot'*.

<sup>5</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sic.*

William Goodale, and Henry Russ junior; and they are pledges for each other.

Four neighbouring townships, Stone, Stoke Mandeville, Bishopton, and Dinton, present that on Friday next before Whit Sunday a certain pot full of boiling water stood on the hearth, one of its legs resting on a stone, and it fell from the stone and the boiling water fell upon Joan, Nicholas Ross's daughter, who was a little over half a year old, and thus she came to her death. The pot was worth two shillings.

. . . . .

It happened at Prince's Risborough on Sunday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. James the Apostle in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward the Third that John Winchester found a dead boy at Losley in the aforesaid vill, and he at once raised the hue. His pledges are William Herring and Geoffrey Bath.

The four nearest neighbours, Henry Marshall, Nicholas Kettle, Nicholas Carpenter, and Hugh Kipping, are pledges for each other.

Four neighbouring townships, Monks Risborough, Horsendon, Kimble, and Prince's Risborough, present that on Saturday next after the feast of St. James in the aforesaid year Henry, Richard Carpenter's son, who was two years of age, fell into a vessel filled with boiling water, and thus came to his death.

Inquest was taken on the aforesaid day of the same year on the oath of William Petitpas, Robert Ware, Robert Oakslade, Thomas Cordwainer, Hugh Hawes, Nicholas Kettle, Hugh Kipping, Robert Smith, Nicholas Carpenter, Robert Chubb, Henry Bremer, and John Souter; they say that Henry, son of Richard Carpenter of Losley in the parish of Prince's Risborough, who was two years of age, fell into a vessel full of boiling water in the said Richard's house on Saturday next after the feast of St. James the Apostle in the above-mentioned year, and there was scalded, and thus came to his death.

It happened at Brill on Saturday<sup>2</sup> next after St. Peter's Chains in the thirty-ninth year of King Edward the Third that John Pope found a dead man with a wound in his breast and forthwith raised the hue. His pledges are Thomas Morris and Thomas North.

Four townships present that on Saturday next after St. Peter's

<sup>1</sup> July 28, 1364.

<sup>2</sup> August 2, 1365.

post festum Sancti Petri in advincula anno supradicto interfecit Eliam Smyth' felonice.

Inquisicio capta dicit quod die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Petri in advincula anno supradicto Johannes Waltham Sadeler' venit in regia via de Brehull' hora vespertina et ibidem felonice percussit Eliam Smyht taylour cum uno cultello in pectore per quam<sup>1</sup> recepit mortem. Precii<sup>2</sup> cultelli j. d. Et statim predictus Johannes captus fuit et positus<sup>3</sup> in carcerem. Et dicunt<sup>4</sup> quod predictus Johannes habuit j. lectum precii xx. d. et alia utencilia precii xx. d. unde constabularius et villata onerantur.

. . . . .

### [CAMBRIDGESHIRE.<sup>5</sup>]

. . . . .

Weston'  
Colville.  
Mem. 7

Infortunium

Accidit in villa de Westone Colville die Jovis in festo Ascencionis Domini anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum duodecimo quod Johannes filius Radulphi de Mareys de Westone Colville etatis trium annorum inventus fuit submersus. Et Emma Siger de Westone primo invenit eum. Plegii ejusdem Emme Radulphus Leverer et Robertus Colt. Et super hoc Johannes Fitz-Jon coronator domini regis in comitatu Cant' accessit ibidem die Sabbati prox' sequenti et habuit visum corporis predicti Johannis filii Radulphi et diligenter inquisivit de morte ipsius per quatuor villatas propinquiores videlicet Westwratting, Brinkele, Wylingham, Carleton' et per villatam de Westone Colville et per xij. scilicet Richerum de Brawhing, Stephanum Cokethown, Reginaldum Pestel, Johannem Fabrum, Henricum le Leche, Johannem de Cornhille, Johannem de Abytone, Rogerum de Mareys, Robertum Traynel, Johannem le Reve, Johannem le<sup>6</sup> Mareys et Walterum Chapman. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicto die Jovis in festo Ascencionis Domini anno supradicto predictus Johannes filius Radulphi ivit ludendo juxta quendam communem puteum vocatum Tonewalle in quadam virida<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *poisitus*.

<sup>5</sup> Roll 17, twenty-eight membranes, 8-12 Edw. III. There are many inquests 'per quatuor villatas propinquiores videlicet . . . et per villatam . . . [the vill in which the death occurred] et per xij. juratores.' Membranes 17-19 contain inquests 'per

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *dic'*.

quatuor villatas propinquiores videlicet . . . et per villatam de . . . et per quatuor homines et prepositum de predictis villatis et per xij. juratores videlicet,' etc. There are also some cases of exigent, and several skins are filled with appeals of approvers.

<sup>6</sup> Sic.

<sup>7</sup> Sic.

Chains in the aforesaid year John Sadler feloniously slew Elias Smith.

Inquest was taken and [the jurors] say that at the hour of vespers on Saturday next after St. Peter's Chains in the aforesaid year John Waltham, the saddler, came along the king's highway at Brill and there feloniously struck Elias Smith, the tailor, in the breast with a knife, and thus he came to his death. The knife was worth a penny. John was at once arrested and imprisoned. And [the jurors] say that John had a bed worth twenty pence, and other utensils worth twenty pence, which are charged to the constable and the township [of Brill].

. . . . .

### [CAMBRIDGESHIRE.]

. . . . .

Weston  
Colville

It happened in the vill of Weston Colville on Holy Thursday<sup>1</sup> in the twelfth year of King Edward the Third that John, son of Ralph Marsh of Weston Colville, who was three years of age, was found drowned. Emma Siger of Weston first found him; her pledges are Ralph Leverer and Robert Colt. And thereupon John Fitz-John, the king's coroner in Cambridgeshire, came there on the following Saturday and viewed the body of John, Ralph's son, and caused diligent inquest to be made concerning his death by four neighbouring townships, West Wratting, Brinckley, Willingham, Carlton, and by the township of Weston Colville, and by twelve [men], to wit, Richer of Braughing, Stephen Cookton, Reginald Pestel, John Smith, Henry Leech, John of Cornhill, John of Abington, Roger Marsh, Robert Trainel, John Reeve, John Marsh, and Walter Chapman. And they say on their oath that on Holy Thursday of the aforesaid year John, Ralph's son, went to play near a certain common well called the

<sup>1</sup> May 21, 1338.

placea in Westone Coleville, et cespitavit et per infortunium cecidit in predictum puteum et ibidem submersit. Ideo preceptum est obstupare predictum puteum, etc.

Et sunt quatuor vicini propinquiore scilicet :

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| Vicini | { | Radulphus Alfrich, plegii ejusdem Henricus Factour et Willelmus Elianor.       |
|        |   | Johannes Factouressone, plegii ejusdem Willelmus Factour et Willelmus Alfrich. |
|        |   | Johannes Rote, plegii ejusdem Bartholomeus Bad et Johannes Bad.                |
|        |   | Thomas Godwyne, plegii ejusdem Hugo Swyn et Philippus Waleman.                 |

Horszethe

Accidit in villa de Horszeth' die Dominica proxima post festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum duodecimo quod Johannes le Harpour filius Willelmi le Harpour de Horszeth' inventus fuit mortuus. Et Johanna que fuit uxor predicti Johannis primo invenit eum. Plegii ejusdem Johanne Willelmus le Harpour et Adam le Walshe. Et super hoc Johannes Fitz-Jon coronator domini regis in comitatu Cant' mandavit ballivo hundredi de Chill' quod venire faciat coram prefato coronatore apud Horszeth' die Mercurii prox' sequenti omnes libere tenentes una cum quatuor et preposito de quatuor villatis propinioribus de ballivia sua ad faciendum id quod ex parte domini regis, etc. Ad quem predictum diem Mercurii predictus coronator venit ibidem et habuit visum corporis predicti Johannis le Harpour. Et predictus ballivus fecit returnum suum, etc. Et quatuor villate propinquiore scilicet Caumpes Magna, Sudecaumpes, Berkelowe et Wykham non venerunt. Ideo ipsi <sup>1</sup> in misericordia, etc. Et libere tenentes videlicet Johannes de Olmested', Michael de Berkelowe, Willelmus Bernard, Petrus de Penfeld, Robertus le Clerk, Semannus Squier, Willelmus Underwode, Willelmus Hamond, Ricardus de Clopton', Robertus de Loundres, Ed's le Smyth, Semannus Moke, Willelmus Tingy, Robertus Sabyn, Willelmus Godefrey, Thomas le Lord, Walterus le Smyth, Ricardus filius Reginaldi, Thomas le Taillour et Hugo Colyn non venerunt. Ideo ipsi in misericordia. Et preceptum fuit ballivo predicto quod distringat predictas villatas et similiter omnes libere tenentes per omnes terras et catalla, etc. ita quod haberet corpora eorum coram prefato

<sup>1</sup> Sic.



Townwell on a certain green in Weston Colville, and slipping he fell into the well by misadventure and was drowned. Therefore it was ordered that the well be closed, etc.

The four nearest neighbours are :

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Neighbours | { | Ralph Alfrie ; his pledges, Henry Factor and William Eleanor.    |
|            |   | John Factorson ; his pledges, William Factor and William Alfrie. |
|            |   | John Rote ; his pledges, Bartholomew Bad and John Bad.           |
|            |   | Thomas Godwin ; his pledges, Hugh Swain and Philip Wellman.      |

Horseheath

It happened in the vill of Horseheath on Sunday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the twelfth year of King Edward the Third that John Harper, son of William Harper of Horseheath, was found dead. And Joan, his wife, first found him ; her pledges are William Harper and Adam Walsh. And thereupon John Fitz-John, the king's coroner in Cambridgeshire, ordered the bailiff of the hundred of Chilford to summon before the said coroner at Horseheath on the following Wednesday all the freeholders together with the reeve and four [men] of [each of] four neighbouring townships in his bailiwick to do whatever [might be commanded] on behalf of the king. On the said Wednesday the said coroner went there and viewed John Harper's body : and the said bailiff made his return, etc. And the four neighbouring townships, Great Camps, Shudy Camps, Bartlow, and Wickham did not come ; therefore they are in mercy, etc. And the freeholders, namely John of Olmstead, Michael of Bartlow, William Bernard, Peter of Penfield, Robert Clerk, Seaman Squire, William Underwood, William Hammond, Richard of Clopton, Robert of London, Ed[mund] Smith, Seaman Moke, William Tingy, Robert Sabin, William Godfrey, Thomas Lord, Walter Smith, Richard son of Reginald, Thomas Taylor, and Hugh Collin, did not come ; therefore they are in mercy. And the aforesaid bailiff was ordered to distrain the said townships and likewise all the said freeholders by all their lands and chattels, etc., and to have their bodies before the said coroner at Horseheath on the following Thursday, and to account for

<sup>1</sup> June 14, 1338.

coronatore apud Horszeth' die Jovis prox' sequenti et quod de exitibus terrarum eorum respondeat, etc. Ad quem predictum diem Jovis predictus ballivus returnavit preceptum suum. Et predictus coronator, etc. venit ibidem. Et similiter predictæ villate venerunt ibidem. Et libere tenentes scilicet Willelmus Godefrey, Thomas le Lord, Walterus le Smyth, Ricardus filius Reginaldi, Thomas le Taillour et Hugo Colyn venerunt tunc ibidem. Et. . . .<sup>1</sup>

Exitus  
iij. s. ix. d.

non venerunt. Ideo ipsi in misericordia. Et ballivus respondit de exitibus terrarum, etc. scilicet de Johanne de Olmested' vj. d., de Michael de Berkelowe et de aliis predictis qui tunc non venerunt ibidem de quolibet eorum iij. d. Et preceptum fuit ballivo predicto sicut alias distringat Johannem de Olmested', Willelmum Bernard et alios qui fecerunt defaltam, etc. ita quod haberet corpora eorum coram prefato coronatore apud Horszeth' die Veneris prox' sequenti, etc. et quod de exitibus terrarum, etc. respondeat, etc. Et idem dies datus est predictis villatis et libere tenentibus videlicet Willelmo Godefrey et aliis qui tunc presentes fuerunt quod sint ibidem, etc. Ad quem predictum diem Veneris predictus coronator venit et ballivus returnavit preceptum suum. Et predictæ villate tunc venerunt et aliqui libere tenentes scilicet Semannus Squier, Johannes de Olmested', Michael de Berkelowe, Petrus de Penfeld, Willelmus Bernard, Robertus le Clerk, Ricardus de Clopton' et Willelmus Tingy venerunt tunc ibidem. Et. . . .<sup>2</sup> non venerunt. Ideo ipsi in misericordia. Et

Exitus vj. s.

ballivus respondit de exitibus terrarum eorum, etc. scilicet de quolibet eorum qui non venit vj. d., etc. Et preceptum fuit ballivo sicut pluries distringat Willelmum Underwode, Willelmum Hamond, Robertum de Loundres et alios qui tunc non venerunt ibidem per omnes terras et catalla, etc. ita quod haberet corpora eorum coram prefato coronatore apud Horszeth' die Lune prox' sequenti et quod de exitibus terrarum, etc. respondeat, etc. Et idem dies datus est Semanno Squier, Johanni de Olmested' et aliis qui tunc presentes fuerunt ibidem. Ad quem predictum diem Lune predictus ballivus returnavit preceptum suum. Et predictæ villate et omnes libere tenentes venerunt apud Horszeth'.

Et predictus Johannes Fitz-Jon coronator, etc. ibidem diligenter inquisivit de morte predicti Johannis le Harpour filii Willelmi le Harpour per predictas quatuor villatas propinquiores videlicet

<sup>1</sup> The names of the other fourteen freeholders.

<sup>2</sup> The names of the other twelve freeholders.

the profits of their lands, etc. And on the said Thursday the bailiff returned his precept; and the aforesaid coroner, etc., came there, and also the aforesaid townships and the freeholders, namely William Godfrey, Thomas Lord, Walter Smith, Richard son of Reginald, Thomas Taylor, and Hugh Collin; but [the other fourteen freeholders] did not appear, and therefore are in mercy. And the bailiff accounted for the profits of the lands, etc., to wit, for John of Olmstead six pence, Michael of Bartlow and the other absent [freeholders] each three pence. And the bailiff was ordered, as for the second time, to distrain John of Olmstead, William Bernard, and the others who had made default, etc., and to have their bodies before the said coroner at Horseheath on the following Friday, etc., and to account for the profits of their lands, etc. The same day was also given to the said townships and freeholders, to wit, William Godfrey and the others who were then present, to be there, etc. On that Friday the coroner came and the bailiff returned his precept, and the said townships then appeared, and also certain freeholders, namely Seaman Squire, John of Olmstead, Michael of Bartlow, Peter of Penfield, William Bernard, Robert Clerk, Richard of Clopton, and William Tingy; but [the other twelve freeholders] did not appear, and therefore are in mercy. And the bailiff accounted for the profits of their lands, etc., to wit, for each person absent six pence, etc. And the bailiff was ordered to distrain as for the third time William Underwood, William Hammond, Robert of London, and the other absentees, by all their lands and chattels, etc., and to have their bodies before the said coroner at Horseheath on the following Monday, and to account for the profits of their lands, etc. And the same day was given to Seaman Squire, John of Olmstead, and the others who were then and there present. On the said Monday the bailiff returned his precept; and the said townships and all the freeholders appeared at Horseheath.

And the aforesaid John Fitz-John, the coroner, etc., there caused diligent inquest to be made concerning the death of John Harper, William Harper's son, by the said four neighbouring townships,

Radulphus  
Bultel

Caumpes Magna, Sudecaumpes, Berkelow et Wykham una cum villa de Horszeth' et per xij. juratores scilicet Johannem de Olmested', Willelmum Hamond, Semannum Squier, Willelmum Godefrey, Thomam le Lord, Ed'm le Smyth, Robertum de Loundres, Ricardum de Clopton', Walterum le Smyth, Ricardum filium Reginaldi, Willelmum Tingy et Hugonem Colyn. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Jovis prox' ante festum Anunciacionis Beate Marie Virginis anno supradicto Johannes de Hanechathe filius Willelmi de Hanechathe de Sudecaumpes ivit juxta herream suam super terram suam in campo de Sudecaumpes vocato Stonfeld. Et ibidem venit predictus Johannes le Harpour vi et armis videlicet baculo, bidow, bokeler, aketoun et palet, et in predictum Johannem de Hanechathe insultum fecit et cum predicto bidow ipsum vulneravit in brachio sinistro. Et idem Johannes de Hanechathe timuit se quod predictus Johannes le Harpour voluit interficere eum, et cepit predictum bidow in manu sua prope ad punctum et tenuit illud bidow ita quod cedit manum suam infra, et fugiit retro et cecidit super dorsum suum. Et predictus Johannes le Harpour cecidit super eum et tenuit eum ad terram. Et tunc quidam Radulphus Bultel de Sudecaumpes garcio predicti Johannis de Hanechathe stetit alonge et vidit ipsum Johannem magistrum suum in periculo mortis. Venit ad eos sicut jacuerunt ad auxiliandum et defendendum predictum Johannem de Hanechathe ita quod predictus Johannes le Harpour non interficeret eum, et percussit predictum Johannem le Harpour super tibiam dexteram cum uno baculo et fregit illam, et expulsiit predictum Johannem le Harpour in dorso cum puncto predicti baculi ut surgeret de magistro suo, et ipsum vulneravit cum puncto predicti baculi in dorso. Et tunc predictus Johannes de Hanechathe surrexit et cucurrit abhinc, et predictus Radulphus fugiit. Et statim predictus Johannes le Harpour abductus fuit in quadam carecta usque ad domum predicti Willelmi le Harpour in Horszeth', et ibidem jacuit et confessus et communicatus fuit, et languebat usque predictum diem Dominicam proximam post festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno supradicto quo die obiit in matutina de predicto vulnere in dorso. Et dicunt quod predictus baculus predicti Radulphi valuit obolum. Item dicunt quod predictus Radulphus Bultel non habuit terras, redditus, bona nec catalla die quo vulneravit predictum Johannem le Harpour nec post, etc. Et preceptum est capere predictum Radulphum, etc.

Et sunt quatuor vicini propinquiore scilicet :



namely Great Camps, Shudy Camps, Bartlow, and Wickham, together with the vill of Horseheath, and by twelve jurors, namely John of Olmstead, William Hammond, Seaman Squire, William Godfrey, Thomas Lord, Ed[mund] Smith, Robert of London, Richard of Clopton, Walter Smith, Richard son of Reginald, William Tingy, and Hugh Collin. They say on their oath that on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next before Lady Day in the aforesaid year John of Hanchet, son of William of Hanchet of Shudy Camps, was with his harrow on his land in the field of Shudy Camps called Stonefield. And the said John Harper came there with force and arms, namely with a staff, a bidowe,<sup>2</sup> a buckler, a gambison, and a palet,<sup>3</sup> and assaulted John of Hanchet, and wounded him with the said bidowe in the left arm. John of Hanchet, fearing that John Harper would kill him, seized the bidowe near its point and held it, so that it cut the palm of his hand, and he retreated and fell on his back. John Harper then sprang upon him and held him to the earth. Then a certain Ralph Bulteel of Shudy Camps, a servant of John of Hanchet, stood afar off and saw that his master's life was in danger. He came to them, as they lay there, to aid and defend John of Hanchet and to prevent John Harper from killing him, and he broke John Harper's right shin with a staff, and he drove the end of the staff into his back to make him rise from his master, and thus he wounded [John Harper] in the back. Then John of Hanchet rose up and ran away, and Ralph fled. John Harper was at once carried in a cart to the said William Harper's house in Horseheath, where he lay in bed and confessed and received the communion. He lingered until Sunday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the aforesaid year, and on the morning of that day he died of the wound in his back. [The jurors] say that Ralph's staff is worth a halfpenny, and that he had no lands, rents, goods, or chattels on the day on which he wounded John Harper, nor afterwards, etc. And it was ordered that Ralph be arrested, etc.

The four nearest neighbours are :

<sup>1</sup> March 19, 1338.

<sup>2</sup> A lance.

<sup>3</sup> A head-piece.



|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| Vicini | { | Willelmus Curtey . . . , <sup>1</sup> plegii ejusdem Johannes de Possewyk, Willelmus Motte.           |
|        |   | Ricardus Fuller, [plegii] <sup>1</sup> ejusdem Galfridus fil' Johannis de Horszeth' et Robertus Kate. |
|        |   | Robertus le S . . . , <sup>1</sup> plegii ejusdem Ricardus le Masoun et Willelmus Pigg'.              |
|        |   | Gilbertus St . . . , <sup>1</sup> plegii ejusdem Alex' de Cavendissh' et Robertus Boterel.            |

. . . . .

Mem. 12

ESSEX.<sup>2</sup>

Hundr' de  
Witham.  
Coggeshale  
Parva

Accidit ibidem quod Agnes uxor Johannis Dryvere de Parva Badewe die Jovis in septimana Pasche anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xlv<sup>to</sup> apud Coggeshale Parva<sup>3</sup> inventa fuerat mortua et quod Johannes Growel primo ipsam mortuam invenit, et nunciavit quatuor vicinis propinquieribus videlicet Edmundo Fullere, Waltero Trewe, Johanni Sterre et Ricardo Heyward, qui nunciaverunt Thome Pecok' ballivo domini regis hundredi predicti, qui quidem ballivus nunciavit Johanni de Gestnyngthorp' uni coronator' comitatus predicti, qui venit apud Coggeshale predictam die Veneris proxima in septimana predicta ad videndum corpus predictae Agnetis. Et predictus Johannes Growel inventor ostendit ei corpus, qui vidit et palpavit, et inquit de morte predicta per sacramentum Thome Lavender, Johannis Myle, Rogeri Fullere, Ade Sprot', Johannis le Clerc', Johannis Fabyan, Johannis Westwod', Johannis Strogel, Johannis Whelère, Henrici Stork', Ricardi Draper et Johannis Russel. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Dryvere filius Emme de Badewe vir predictae Agnetis die Dominica in festo Ramispalmarum anno supradicto duxit predictam Agnetem uxorem suam in quendam campum vocatum Westfeld in Coggeshale predicta ad quoddam puteum aquosum in eodem campo et ibidem ipsam verberavit juxta caput et collum et ita male tractavit quod pene eam interfecit. Et ipso Johanne Dryvere

Joh' Dryvere

<sup>1</sup> The roll is torn.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 35, nineteen membranes, 44 Edw. III. 2 Rich. II.; some of them relate to Gloucestershire. There are many inquests, most of them 'per quatuor villatas propinquiores videlicet . . . , per xij. juratores

videlicet . . . ' Membranes 11-14 contain inquests like the two here printed; mem. 15-19, appeals by approvers. See below, Roll 254, for some earlier appeals made by approvers before the coroner of Essex.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Neighbours | { | William Curteis; his pledges, John of Postwick and William Mott.                   |
|            |   | Richard Fuller; his pledges, Geoffrey, son of John of Horseheath, and Robert Cate. |
|            |   | Robert S . . . ; his pledges, Richard Mason and William Pigg.                      |
|            |   | Gilbert S . . . ; his pledges, Alexander of Cavendish and Robert Botterel.         |

. . . . .

## ESSEX.

Hundred of  
Witham.  
Little  
Coggeshall

It happened that Agnes, wife of John Driver of Little Baddow, was found dead there [at Little Coggeshall] on Thursday<sup>1</sup> of Easter week in the forty-fifth year of King Edward the Third. John Growel, who first found her dead body, notified the four nearest neighbours, to wit, Edmund Fuller, Walter Trew, John Steer, and Richard Hayward, and they notified Thomas Peacock, the king's bailiff of that hundred, who notified John of Gestingthorpe, one of the coroners of the county, and he came to Coggeshall on the following Friday of that week to view the body of Agnes. And John Growel, the finder, showed the body to [the coroner], and the latter viewed it and felt it, and made inquest concerning her death on the oath of Thomas Lavender, John Mile, Roger Fuller, Adam Sprott, John Clerk, John Fabyan, John Westwood, John Strogel,<sup>2</sup> John Wheeler, Henry Stork, Richard Draper, and John Russell. And they say on their oath that on Palm Sunday of the aforesaid year John Driver, son of Emma of Baddow and husband of the said Agnes, took his wife Agnes with him to a certain well filled with water in the field of Coggeshall called Westfield, and there he beat her on the head and neck, and so ill-treated her that he almost killed her. Then, believing her to be

<sup>1</sup> April 10, 1371.

<sup>2</sup> Strogol, or Striguil, was the ancient name of Chepstow.

credente ipsam Agnetem esse mortuam iniecit<sup>1</sup> in dictum puteum toto corpore ipsius Agnetis existente in aqua preter collum et caput. Que quidem Agnes ibidem jacuit in aqua predicta modo predicto usque diem Veneris prox' in Paraceve Domini, quo die predictus Johannes Growel ipsam invenit jacentem modo supradicto adhuc viventem. Et nunciavit vicinis ibidem qui extraxerunt eam de puteo predicto et duxerunt eam ad domum Margerie Russh in villa predicta, et ibidem jacuit vivens et languebat usque diem Jovis prox' in septimana Pasche quo die occasione lesionis predictae moriebatur. Et sic predictus Johannes Dryvere predictam Agnetem felonice interfecit.

|  |                    |   |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Plegii inven-<br>toris                 | Johannes atte Noke | } m' <sup>2</sup> Joh' Growel inventorem. |
|  | Ricardus Heldere   |   |
| Plegii iiii <sup>or</sup><br>vicinorum | Ricardus Bole      | } m' Edm' Fullere.                        |
|  | Johannes Bassh     |   |
|  | Gilbertus Cole     | } m' Thome <sup>3</sup> Trewe.            |
|  | Ricardus Fab'      |   |
|  | Johannes atte Gate | } m' Joh' Sterre.                         |
|  | Johannes Fabel     |   |
|  | Ricardus Rook'     | } m' Ric' Heyward.                        |
|  | Hugo Longe         |   |

|                               |                      |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Quatuor vil-<br>late propinq' | villata de Kelvedene | villata de Bradewell'      |
|                               | villata de Rewenhale | villata de Braxsted Magna. |

Hundr' de  
Dung',  
Maldon  
Magna

Accidit ibidem quod Alicia Cherles de eadem villa die Mercurii prox' postum<sup>4</sup> Apostolorum Petri et Pauli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xlv<sup>to</sup> apud Maldon' predictam inventa fuit mortua et quod Johannes Rakyere primo ipsam mortuam invenit, et nunciavit quatuor vicinis propinquieribus videlicet Roberto Peper, Johanni Tras, Willelmo Bew et Willelmo Arundel, qui nunciaverunt Galfrido atte Wode ballivo domini regis, qui quidem ballivus nunciavit Johanni de Gestnyngthorp' uni coronator' comitatus predicti, qui venit ibidem die Sabbati prox' post festum predictum ad videndum corpus predictae Alicie. Et predictus Joh' Rakyere inventor ostendit ei corpus, qui vidit et palpavit, et inquit de morte predicta per sacramentum Thome Bretewell', Radulphi Coleman, Johannis Fletcher, Thome Child, Thome Pecok', Johannis Traps, Thome Sandone, Johannis Elmsted', Johannis Gyveyne junioris, Johannis Reek', Johannis Prentys et Johannis Hert'. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die

<sup>1</sup> Supply *cam.*

<sup>2</sup> *manuciperunt.*

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>4</sup> *i.e. post festum.*

dead, he threw [her] into the well, so that her whole body was under water except her neck and head. And Agnes thus lay in the water until Good Friday, when John Growel found her lying in the aforesaid position and still alive. He notified the neighbours, and they took her from the well and carried her to the house of Margery Rush in the aforesaid vill, where she lay alive and lingered until the following Thursday in Easter week, and then she died of the said injuries. Thus John Driver feloniously killed the aforesaid Agnes.

The finder's  
pledges

John at the Oak<sup>1</sup> }  
Richard Helder } pledges for John Growel, the finder.

Pledges of  
the four  
neighbours

Richard Boll }  
John Basch } pledges for Edmund Fuller.

Gilbert Cole }  
Richard Fab[el] } pledges for Thomas Trew.

John Atgate }  
John Fabel } pledges for John Steer.

Richard Rook }  
Hugh Long } pledges for Richard Hayward.

Four  
neighbour-  
ing town-  
ships

Township of Kelvedon.  
Township of Rivenhall.

Township of Bradwell.  
Township of Great Braxted.

Hundred of  
Dongie.  
Great  
Maldon

It happened that Alice Charles of [Maldon] was found dead in Maldon on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the forty-fifth year of King Edward the Third. John Raker, who first found her dead body, notified the four nearest neighbours, to wit, Robert Pepper, John Trass, William Bew, and William Arundel, and they notified Geoffrey Atwood, the king's bailiff, who notified John of Gestingthorpe, one of the coroners of the county, and he came there on Saturday next after the aforesaid feast to view the body of Alice. John Raker, the finder, showed the body to the coroner, and the latter viewed it and felt it, and made inquest concerning her death on the oath of Thomas Bretteville, Ralph Coleman, John Fletcher, Thomas Child, Thomas Peacock, John Trapps, Thomas Sandon, John Elmstead, John Given junior, John Reck, John Prentice, and John Hart. And they say on their oath that on Wednesday next after the

<sup>1</sup> John at the Nook (?).

<sup>2</sup> July 2, 1371.

Katerina  
Ronges

Mercurii prox' post festum predictum anno supradicto quedam Kate-  
rina Ronges de Messyng' non compos mentis obviavit predictae Alicie  
apud le Hethe in villa predicta et ipsam Aliciam ibidem cum magnis  
tegulis et seecol in capite ejus percussit et postea injecit eam in mare  
ibidem per quod recepit mortem.

Plegii inven-  
toris

Johannes Cangel } m' Joh' Rakyere inventorem.  
Robertus Rogge }

Plegii iiii<sup>or</sup>  
vicinorum

Johannes Whelere } m' Robertum Peper.  
Adam Paule }

Ricardus Dyssh } m' Johannem Tras.  
Petrus Ponder' }

Thomas Boylond } m' Will' Bew.  
Johannes Fuller }

Johannes Tristram } m' Will' Arundel.  
Henricus Straw }

Quatuor vil-  
late propinq'

villata de Wodeham Mortymer villata de Maldon' Parva  
villata de Wodeham Water villata de Maldon.

. . . . .

[GLOUCESTERSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

ROTULUS ROBERTI DE WHITYNTON' CORONATORIS COMITATUS  
GLOUC' ANNO REGIS RICARDI XVJ<sup>mo</sup>.

Wyuch'

Inquisicio capta apud Wynch' die Dominica prox' post festum  
Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post con-  
questum xvj<sup>mo</sup> coram Roberto Whitynton' uno cornat' <sup>2</sup> comitatus  
Glouc' super visum corporis Thome Weston' de Herford per quatuor  
villatas propinquiores videlicet Gretton', Grete, Suydeley et Cotes, et  
per sacramentum Thome Moreyn, Johannis Aylleward, Roberti Ippe-  
well', Johannis Wynt[er], Johannis Bussh', Willelmi Bedull', Roberti  
Robyns, Nicholai Sowon', Walteri Al'cok', Willelmi Gerveys, Willelmi  
Aleys et Willelmi Carpenter. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum  
quod Walterus Walker' de Lodelowe die Dominica prox' ante festum As-  
sumpcionis Beate Marie anno supradicto in regia via inter Wynch' et

Walterus  
Walker' de  
Lodelowe

<sup>1</sup> Roll 42, one membrane, 16 Rich. II.  
Endorsement: 'Rotulus Rob' de Whityn-

ton' unius coron' com' Glou'.  
<sup>2</sup> Sic here and in the following cases.



aforesaid feast a certain Catherine Ronges of Messing, who was insane, met Alice at the heath in the aforesaid vill [of Maldon] and struck her on the head with great tiles and with sea-coal, and afterwards threw her into the sea, and thus she came to her death.

|  |                               |   |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| The finder's<br>pledges                  | John Cangel                   | } | pledges for John Raker, the finder. |
|  | Robert Rogge                  |   |                                     |
| Pledges of<br>the four<br>neighbours     | John Wheeler                  | } | pledges for Robert Pepper.          |
|  | Adam Paul                     |   |                                     |
|  | Richard Dish                  | } | pledges for John Trass.             |
|  | Peter Ponder                  |   |                                     |
|  | Thomas Boyland                | } | pledges for William Bew.            |
|  | John Fuller                   |   |                                     |
|  | John Tristram                 | } | pledges for William Arundel.        |
| Henry Straw                              |                               |   |                                     |
| Four<br>neighbour-<br>ing town-<br>ships | Township of Woodham Mortimer. |   | Township of Little Maldon.          |
|  | Township of Woodham Walter.   |   | Township of [Great] Maldon.         |

[GLOUCESTERSHIRE.]

ROLL OF ROBERT OF WHITTINGTON, CORONER OF THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, IN THE SIXTEENTH YEAR OF KING RICHARD.

Winchcomb      Inquest was taken at Winchcomb on Sunday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second before Robert Whittington, one of the coroners of Gloucestershire, on view of the body of Thomas Weston of Hereford, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Gretton, Greet, Sudeley, and Coates, and on the oath of Thomas Morin, John Aylward, Robert Ippewell, John Winter, John Bush, William Bedell, Robert Robins, Nicholas Swan, Walter Alcock, William Gervaise, William Aleys, and William Carpenter. And they say on their oath that on Sunday next before the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the aforesaid year Walter Walker of Ludlow feloniously slew Thomas Weston in the king's highway between Winchcomb and Greet [by striking him]

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 18, 1392.

Grete felonice interfecit predictum Thomam de Weston' cum uno polax  
 ðd' .<sup>1</sup> .<sup>2</sup> iiiij. d. in capite precii iiiij. d. unde Thomas Moryn oneratur, per quod cito  
 moriebatur. Et statim captus fuit et nulla habuit bona seu catalla.

Teuk' Inquisicio capta ibidem coram Roberto Whitynton' uno cornat'  
 Infortunium xvj<sup>mo</sup> super visum corporis Margerie Hulle per quatuor villatas propin-  
 quiores videlicet Walton', Southewyk', Muythe et Tredynton', et per  
 sacramentum Johannis Brounrobyn, Johannis Walton, Ed'i Tayllor,  
 Johannis of the Batelle,<sup>3</sup> Johannis Sweteappull', Willelmi Graunt,  
 Ricardi Brewere, Johannis Somersete, Ricardi Glasierè, Walteri atte  
 Mulle, Roberti Cosyn' et Willelmi Collewell'. Qui dicunt super sacra-  
 mentum suum quod predicta Margeria Hulle die Martis prox' post  
 festum Sancti Egidii anno supradicto in domo suo noctanter cecidit de  
 gradu solarii et frigit<sup>4</sup> collum suum. Et nulla habuit bona seu catalla  
 nec jura ecclesiastica.

Durhurst Inquisicio capta ibidem die Sabbati prox' post festum Nativitatis  
 Domini anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xvj<sup>mo</sup> coram  
 Roberto Whityngton' uno cornat' comitatus Glouc' super visum cor-  
 poris Drogonis Prioris de Durhurst' per quatuor villatas propinquiores  
 Will' Sere- videlicet Durhurst, Walton, Whithfeld et Apperley, et per sacramen-  
 veyn ser- tum Ricardi atte Watere. . . .<sup>5</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum  
 viens Drogo- quod Willelmus Scryveyn serviens predicti Drogonis die Martis in  
 nis Prioris vigilia Nativitatis Domini anno supradicto apud Durhurst in quodam  
 de Durhurst vivario ipsius Drogonis felonice interfecit et murdravit predictum  
 Drogonem magistrum suum cum uno baculo precii ob' et cum uno  
 ðd' ob' j. d.<sup>6</sup> cultello precii j. d. in capite unde villata de Derhurst oneratur, et  
 quod predictus Willelmus habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam iiiij. s.  
 unde abbas de Westm' oneratur, et quod predictus Drogo habuit jura  
 ecclesiastica. Primus inventor ipsius Drogonis Willelmus Danfeld.  
 Plegii ipsius Willelmi essendi coram justiciariis itinerantibus Johannes  
 Stoke et Hugo Hauker. Et statim postea captus fuit.

<sup>7</sup> Fecit Willelmus Scryveyn serviens Drogonis Prioris de Durhurst.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *deodandum.*

<sup>2</sup> A little boat.

<sup>3</sup> Eleven names.

<sup>2-2</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6-6</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>7-7</sup> Added by a later hand.

on the head with a pole-axe (it is worth four pence, and is charged to Thomas Morin), and this soon caused his death; [Walter] was immediately arrested; he had no goods or chattels.

Tewkesbury

Inquest was taken there [at Tewkesbury] before Robert Whittington, one of the king's coroners of Gloucestershire, on Friday<sup>1</sup> next before the Nativity of Blessed Mary in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Margery Hull, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Walton, Southwick, Mythe, and Tredington, and on the oath of John Brownrobin, John Walton, Ed[ward] Taylor, John Batelle, John Sweetapple, William Grant, Richard Brewer, John Somerset, Richard Glazier, Walter Mill, Robert Cousin, and William Colwell. And they say on their oath, that on the night of Tuesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Giles in the aforesaid year Margery Hull fell from the stairs leading to the upper room of her house and broke her neck; she had no goods or chattels, nor [did she receive] the rites of the church.

Deerhurst

Inquest was taken there [at Deerhurst] on Saturday<sup>3</sup> next after Christmas in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second before Robert Whittington, one of the coroners of Gloucestershire, on view of the body of Drogo Prior of Deerhurst, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Deerhurst, Walton, Whitefield, and Apperley, and on the oath of Richard Atwater [and eleven others]. And they say on their oath that on Tuesday Christmas eve of the aforesaid year, William Scriven, Drogo's servant, feloniously killed and murdered his master Drogo, in a certain warren belonging to the latter, [by striking him] on the head with a staff worth a halfpenny and with a knife worth a penny, which are charged to the township of Deerhurst. And [the jurors say] that William had goods and chattels worth four shillings, which are charged to the abbot of Westminster, and that Drogo had the rites of the church. The first finder of Drogo was William Danfield, and the pledges for his appearance before the itinerant justices are John Stoke and Hugh Hawker.<sup>4</sup> [William Scriven] was arrested immediately after [the act].

William Scriven, servant of Drogo Prior of Deerhurst, committed the crime.

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 6, 1392.

<sup>2</sup> Sept. 3, 1392.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 28, 1392.

<sup>4</sup> This is an exception to the rule that

the finder does not produce pledges when the deceased has had the rites of the church,

Flaxley

Joh' Pirye,  
fil' Ric' Pirie  
de Blechedon'

ad ij. d.

Inquisicio capta ibidem die Martis prox' ante festum Sancti Luce Evangeliste anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum sexto-decimo coram Roberto Whytynton' uno cornat' domini regis [in]<sup>1</sup> comitatu Gloucestr' super visum corporis Johannis Milling de Bosley per quatuor villatas propinquoiores videlicet Wesbury, Rodley, Flaxley, Blechedon', Leygh' et Hope, et per sacramentum. . . .<sup>2</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Johannes Pyrye filius Ricardi Pirie de Blechedon' in campo vocato Chapellesfeld die Mercurii ante festum Sancti Luce Evangeliste anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum sextodecimo felonice occidit Johannem Billyng<sup>3</sup> supradictum de Boseley cum uno cultello in pectore juxta mamiam<sup>3</sup> sinistram. Precii cultelli ij. d. unde villata de Flaxley oneratur. Et primus inventor ipsius fuit Margareta Coyte. Et nulla habuit bona seu catalla<sup>4</sup> et statim postea fugit et ubi devenit nescierunt.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Fecit Johannes Pyrye filius Ricardi Pirie de Blechedon'.<sup>5</sup>

[GLOUCESTERSHIRE.<sup>6</sup>]

. . . . .

Mem. 2

ROTULUS JOHANNIS TRYE UNIUS CORONATORUM COMITATUS GLOUCESTR' A FESTO PURIFICACIONIS BEATE MARIE VIRGINIS ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI DECIMO NONO USQUE OCTABAS SANCTE TRINITATIS ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SUPRADICTI VICESIMO PRIMO.

Infortunium

Contingit apud Wyke die Dominica proxima post festum Purificacionis Beate Marie anno regni domini regis nunc decimo nono quod Editha Rogers de Wyke demens et insanis<sup>7</sup> submersa fuit in parvo puteo impleto cum aqua pluviali in alta via vocata Rosestrete in Wyke et inventa fuit mortua. Primus inventor illius fuit Henricus Redhod. Plegii ejusdem Henrici Johannes Bonde, Nicholaus Northlond ad habendum eum coram justiciariis itinerantibus cum in partes illas venerint. Et predicta Editha visa fuit per predictum coronatorem die Jovis tunc prox' sequenti.

Inquisicio capta apud Durseley coram prefato Johanne Trye predicto die Jovis anno supradicto per sacramentum Johannis Troteman,

<sup>1</sup> Not on the roll. <sup>2</sup> Twelve names. <sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>4-4</sup> Added later probably by the same hand.

<sup>5-5</sup> Added later by a different hand.

<sup>6</sup> Roll 45, three membranes, 19-21 Rich. II. Mem. 1 and 3 contain inquests 'per sacramentum xij. juratorum videlicet,' etc. <sup>7</sup> *Sic.*

Flaxley

Inquest was taken there [at Flaxley] on Tuesday <sup>1</sup> next before St. Luke's day in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second before Robert Whittington, one of the king's coroners of Gloucestershire, on view of the body of John [Billing] of Bosley, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Westbury, Rodley, Flaxley, Blaisdon, Leigh, and Longhope, and by the oath of [twelve men]. And they say on their oath that on Wednesday <sup>2</sup> before St. Luke's day in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second in a field called Chapelsfield, John Pirie, son of Richard Pirie of Blaisdon, feloniously slew John Billing of Bosley [by striking him] with a knife on the breast near the left nipple; the knife was worth two pence, and this is charged to the township of Flaxley. The first finder of the body was Margaret Coyte; [John Pirie] had no goods or chattels; he fled immediately after the act, and [the jurors] do not know where he is.

John Pirie, son of Richard Pirie of Blaisdon, committed the crime.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

. . . . .

ROLL OF JOHN TRYE, ONE OF THE CORONERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, FROM CANDLEMAS IN THE NINETEENTH YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND TO THE OCTAVES OF HOLY TRINITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND.<sup>3</sup>

It happened at Wick on Sunday <sup>4</sup> next after Candlemas in the nineteenth year of the reign of the present king that Edith Rogers of Wick, who was demented or insane, was drowned in a little well filled with rain-water in the highway called Rose Street in Wick, and was found dead. The first finder of her body was Henry Redhood; John Bond and Nicholas Northland are pledges for his appearance before the itinerant justices when they come into these parts. Edith was viewed by the said coroner on the following Thursday.

Inquest was taken at Dursley before John Trye on the said Friday of that year on the oath of John Trotman, John Bond, John Danger-

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 15, 1392.

<sup>2</sup> Oct. 16, 1392.

<sup>3</sup> From Feb. 2, 1396, to June 9, 1398.

<sup>4</sup> Feb. 6, 1396.



Johannis Bonde, Johannis Daungervyll', Elie Spark juratorum villate de Wyke, et Johannis Couley, Willelmi atte Nelme, Johannis Brounyng' et Roberti Brounyng' juratorum villate de Camme, ac Ricardi Hallyng', Johannis Cokkes, Johannis Dorneye et Walteri Jurdan juratorum villate de Slymbrugge. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicta Editha de sua propria negligencia et insania cecidit in puteum predictum et sic per infortunium submersa fuit, et nichil aliud potuerunt inquirere. Et dicunt quod nichil habet in bonis.

Contingit eciam apud Coueley die Mercurii prox' post festum Nativitatis Beate Marie anno regni domini regis nunc vicesimo quod Robertus Fox de Coueley parvulus inventus fuit mortuus ibidem. Primus inventor illius fuit Henricus Lawes de Coueley. Plegii ejusdem Henrici Johannes Brynkworthl' et Willelmus Shyre ad habendum eum coram justiciariis itinerantibus cum in partes illas venerint. Et visus fuit die Veneris tunc prox' sequenti per predictum Johannem Trye.

Inquisicio capta apud Coueley predicto die Veneris per sacramentum xij. juratorum villatarum de Wyk, Camme et Slymbrugge supradictarum. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Robertus fuit parvulus etatis trium annorum tantum, et cecidit in quandam patellam plenam lactis et sic per infortunium submersus fuit. Precium patelle vj. d. qui<sup>2</sup> remanet in custodia villate de Coueley. Et nichil aliud potuerunt inquirere, etc.

Contingit eciam apud Camme die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Leonardi anno regni domini regis nunc vicesimo quod Willelmus Bachelor qui fuit etatis decem annorum inventus fuit mortuus in quodam campo juxta le Wodende. Primus inventor illius fuit Henricus Alaport. Plegii ejusdem Henrici<sup>3</sup> coram justiciariis itinerantibus, etc. Henricus Draycote, Johannes Hert. Et visus fuit per predictum coronatorem die Sabbati tunc prox' sequenti.

Inquisicio capta apud Camme eodem die Sabbati coram eodem coronatore per sacramentum xij. juratorum predictarum villatarum de Wyke, Camme et Slymbrugge. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Willelmus sedebat in quodam puteo arene dormiendo subtus quandam concavam ripam putei predicti que quidem ripa subito cecidit super predictum Willelmum et sic per infortunium opressus fuit per ruinam ripe predictae. Nec aliud potuerunt inquirere. Et quod nichil habet in bonis.

<sup>1</sup> Crossed out; d' = *decodandum*.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>3</sup> Supply *ad habendum cum*.

ville, and Elias Spark, jurors of the township of Wick, and John Cowley, William at the Elm, John Browning, and Robert Browning, jurors of the township of Cam, and Richard Halling, John Cokes, John Dorney, and Walter Jordan, jurors of the township of Slimbridge. They say on their oath that Edith by reason of her own negligence and insanity fell into the well and thus by misadventure was drowned, and they can ascertain nothing more. And they say that she has no goods.

It also happened at Cowley on Wednesday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Mary in the twentieth year of the present king that a small boy, Robert Fox of Cowley, was there found dead. The first finder of his body was Henry Lawes of Cowley; John Brinkworth and William Shire are pledges for his appearance before the itinerant justices when they come into these parts. The body was viewed on the following Friday by the aforesaid John Trye.

Inquest was taken at Cowley on the said Friday on the oath of twelve jurors of the said townships of Wick, Cam, and Slimbridge; they say on their oath that Robert, a little boy only three years of age, fell into a pan full of milk and thus was drowned by misadventure. The pan is worth six pence and remains in charge of the township of Cowley. And [the jurors] can ascertain nothing more, etc.

It also happened at Cam on Friday <sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Leonard in the twentieth year of the present king that William Bachelor, who was ten years of age, was found dead in a certain field near the Woodend. The first finder of his body was Henry Allport; the pledges [for his appearance] before the itinerant justices, etc. are Henry Draycot and John Hart. The body was viewed by the aforesaid coroner on the following Saturday.

Inquest was made at Cam on that same Saturday before the said coroner on the oath of twelve jurors of the aforesaid townships of Wick, Cam, and Slimbridge; they say on their oath that the said William sat sleeping in a certain sand-pit under an overhanging bank of the said pit, which suddenly fell upon him, and thus by misadventure he was crushed by the falling sand. [The jurors say] that they can ascertain nothing more, and that he has no goods.

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 13, 1396.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 3, 1396.

Contingit apud Stonhouse die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Martini Episcopi anno regni domini regis nunc vicesimo quod Johannes Gabbe de Stonhouse inventus fuit mortuus in quodam rivulo vocato Lytelre infra dominium de Stonhouse. Primus inventor fuit quidam pauper extraneus vocatus Robertus Lokyere. Plegii ejusdem Roberti Walterus Somerfoull' et Walterus Couherd coram justiciariis itinerantibus, etc. Et visus fuit per predictum coronatorem die Mercurii tunc prox' sequenti.

Infortunium

Inquisicio capta fuit ibidem coram predicto coronatore per sacramentum Johannis Baker, Roberti Walsh', Johannis Stonehous et Walteri Walsh' jur' villate de Stonhouse, et Roberti Danyell', Walteri Priour, Thome Morecock et Henr' Maldon jur' villate de Stanley, ac Bernardi Frenssh', Roberti Webbe, Roberti Tounesende et Willelmi Amfrey jur' villate de Estynton. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Johannes stabat et se reclinabat ad quandam salicem et sic dormitando cecidit in rivulum predictum et sic per infortunium mortuus fuit. Nec aliud poterunt<sup>1</sup> inquirere. Et habuit in bonis diversum staurum precii xl. d. que quidem bona remanent in custodia villate de Stonhouse.

Contingit apud Maysemore die Lune vicesimo primo die mensis Novembris anno regni domini Regis nunc vicesimo quod Robertus Hende de Maysemore inventus fuit mortuus in quodam loco vocato Abbotespulle infra dominium de Mayesmore. Primus inventor fuit Thomas Blake de eadem. Plegii ejusdem Thome Ricardus Hende, Thomas West coram justiciariis itinerantibus, etc. Et visus fuit per predictum coronatorem die Mercurii tunc prox' sequenti.

Infortunium<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio capta ibidem die Mercurii supradicto coram prefato coronatore per sacramentum Ricardi Fulmour, Johannis Fysshier', Willelmi Cartere, Johannis Style, Willelmi Pypere, Johannis Hulle, Johannis Taillour, Willelmi Code, Walteri Gyffard, Walteri Kempe, Johannis Stowell' et Ricardi Roberdes jur' villatarum de Maysemore, Overe et Hynham. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Robertus genuflectebat se ad bibendum de aqua predicta eo quod infirmus fuit et febribus languens, et propter negligenciam firme tenure manuum suarum cecidit in aquam predictam et sic per infortunium submersus fuit. Et nichil aliud potuerunt inquirere. Et nichil habet in bonis. Plus in cedula huic recordo consuta.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> In most of the cases on this membrane

*infortunium* in the margin is in a hand different from that in the text.

It happened at Stonehouse on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Martin the Bishop in the twentieth year of the present king that John Gabb of Stonehouse was found dead in a rivulet called Littlere in the lordship of Stonehouse. The first finder was a poor stranger called Robert Lockyer; the pledges [for his appearance] before the itinerant justices, etc. are Walter Summerfowl and Walter Cowherd. The body was viewed by the aforesaid coroner on the following Wednesday.

Inquest was taken [at Stonehouse] before the said coroner on the oath of John Baker, Robert Walsh, John Stonehouse, and Walter Walsh, jurors of the township of Stonehouse, and Robert Daniel, Walter Prior, Thomas Moorecock, and Henry Maldon, jurors of the township of Stanley, and Bernard French, Robert Webb, Robert Townsend, and William Amfrey, jurors of the township of Eastington. They say on their oath that the said John stood leaning against a willow tree, and while sleeping in this position, he fell into the said rivulet, and thus died by misadventure; and [that] they can ascertain nothing more. And he had in goods certain farm stock worth forty pence, which goods remain in charge of the township of Stonehouse.

It happened at Maisemore on Monday November the twenty-first in the twentieth year of the present king<sup>2</sup> that Robert Hendy of Maisemore was found dead in a place called Abbotspool in the lordship of Maisemore. The first finder was Thomas Blake of Maisemore; the pledges [for his appearance] before the itinerant justices, etc. are Richard Hendy and Thomas West. The body was viewed by the aforesaid coroner on the following Wednesday.

Inquest was taken [at Maisemore] on that Wednesday before the said coroner on the oath of Richard Fulmer, John Fisher, William Carter, John Style, William Piper, John Hull, John Taylor, William Code, Walter Gifford, Walter Kemp, John Stowell, and Richard Roberts, jurors of the townships of Maisemore, Over, and Highnam. They say on their oath that the said Robert knelt down to drink of the said water because he was ill and suffering from fever, but his hands failed to maintain their hold, and, falling into the water, he was thus drowned by misadventure. [The jurors] can ascertain nothing more. He has no goods. Further details are in the schedule sewn to this record.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 6, 1396.

<sup>2</sup> 1396.



[MIDDLESEX.<sup>1</sup>]

ROTULUS DE INFORTUNIIS ACCIDENTIBUS IN COMITATU MIDD'  
 TEMPORE JORDANI DE ELSING' UNIUS CORONATORUM  
 EJUSDEM COMITATUS VIDELICET A FESTO NATALIS DOMINI  
 ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI TERCII A CONQUESTU TRICE-  
 SIMO NONO USQUE DIEM VENERIS PROX' ANTE FESTUM  
 OMNIUM SANCTORUM ANNO XL<sup>o</sup> DOMINI EDWARDI REGIS  
 SUPRADICTI.

Westsmethe-  
feld extra  
barran  
London'

Inquisicio capta ibidem coram Jordano de Elsing' coronatore  
 com' Midd' die Martis prox' post festum Natalis Domini anno regni  
 regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxix. super visum corporis  
 Roberti Freynssche defuncti per sacramentum Nicholai Meleman . . .<sup>2</sup>  
 Qui dicunt quod die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti S. . .<sup>3</sup>  
 [Mar]tiris anno supradicto accidit apud Westsmethefelde in comitatu  
 predicto quod predictus Robertus Frenssche jacuit in lecto suo in  
 domo Simonis Frenssche patris sui et quedam pruna cecidit [super]<sup>3</sup>  
 stramine ejusdem lecti et generavit ignem quo igne per infortunium  
 adustus fuit sic. . .<sup>3</sup> uti obiit. Requisiti quis esset presens quando  
 hoc accidit dicunt quod nemo nisi ipse solus. Requisiti quis eciam  
 primo invenit ipsum post illud factum dicunt quod Willelmus  
 Mychelisson' ipsum primo invenit mortuum et levavit luthesium.  
 Et quatuor homines et prepositi iij<sup>or</sup> villatarum propinquiarum<sup>4</sup>  
 scilicet Isildon, Shordiche, Stebbynheth et Hakeneye hoc idem  
 dicunt. Et predictus Willelmus Michelisson' examinatus invenit  
 plegios Arnoldum de Cornewayle et Andrean Dyere.

Infortunium

Haliwelle  
Strete  
comitatus  
predicti

Inditamen-  
tum istud  
alias scilicet  
termino  
Michaelis  
anno xl.  
liberatum  
fuit coram  
rege et

Inquisicio capta ibidem coram predicto coronatore die Sabbati  
 prox' post festum Purificacionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi  
 tercii post conquestum quadragesimo super visum corporis ejusdam  
 Johannis Munmouth interfecti per sacramentum. . .<sup>5</sup> Qui dicunt  
 die Jovis prox' post festum Purificacionis Beate Marie anno  
 supradicto accidit apud Haliwelle Strete predictum quod cum predictus  
 Johannes Mynimouth perivit regiam viam juxta portam Thome de  
 Wyrcestre capellani predictus Thomas de Wyrcestre obviavit predicto  
 Johanni Munmouth et extraxit quendam cultellum vocatum thwytil' et

<sup>1</sup> Roll 95, two skins joined so as to form  
 one membrane, 39-40 Ed. III.

<sup>2</sup> Eleven other names.

<sup>3</sup> A hole in the MS.

<sup>4</sup> Sic here and in the following cases.

<sup>5</sup> Twelve names.



## [MIDDLESEX.]

ROLL OF MISADVENTURES HAPPENING IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX WHEN JORDAN OF ELSING WAS ONE OF THE CORONERS OF THAT COUNTY, TO WIT, FROM CHRISTMAS IN THE THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD TO THE FRIDAY NEXT BEFORE ALL SAINTS IN THE FORTIETH YEAR OF THE AFORESAID KING EDWARD.<sup>1</sup>

West Smithfield, outside the Bar of London

Inquest was taken [at West Smithfield] before Jordan of Elsing, coroner of Middlesex county, on Tuesday <sup>2</sup> next after Christmas in the thirty-ninth year of Edward the Third, on view of the body of Robert French deceased, on the oath of Nicholas Mealman [and eleven others]. They say that on Saturday <sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. [Stephen] the Martyr in the aforesaid year it happened at West Smithfield in the said county that while Robert French lay in his bed in the house of his father, Simon French, a burning coal fell upon the straw of his bed and caused a conflagration, and thus he was burned to death by misadventure. Being asked who was present when this happened, they say, No one except [Robert] himself. Being also asked who first found him after the accident happened, they say that William Michaelson first found him dead, and he raised the hue. And the four men and the reeves of four neighbouring townships, to wit, Islington, Shoreditch, Stepney, and Hackney, say the same.<sup>4</sup> William Michaelson, having been examined, found pledges : Arnold of Cornwall and Andrew Dyer.

Holywell Street in the said county

This indictment was repeated before the king at Michaelmas term in the

Inquest was made [in Holywell Street] before the said coroner on Saturday <sup>5</sup> next after Candlemas in the fortieth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of John Monmouth, who had been slain, on the oath of [twelve men]. They say that on Thursday next after Candlemas in the said year it happened in Holywell Street that as John Monmouth was going along the king's highway near the gate of Thomas of Worcester, the chaplain, the said Thomas met him, and drew a certain knife, called a thwitel, and struck the said John

<sup>1</sup> From Dec. 25, 1365, to Oct. 30, 1366.

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 30, 1365.      <sup>4</sup> Dec. 27, 1365.

<sup>4</sup> They agree with the finding of the jury.

<sup>5</sup> Feb. 7, 1366.

catalla  
ibidem ad-  
judicata et  
posita in  
extractis

percussit predictum Johannem Munmouth in sinistro latere gravi  
wlnere quo statim moriebatur, et sic ipsum felonice interfecit. Et  
requisiti ubi devenit ille felo post illud factum dicunt quod incontinenti  
defugit set ubi nesciunt. Requisiti eciam quis esset presens quando  
hoc accidit dicunt quod nemo nisi illi duo. Requisiti eciam de bonis  
et catallis ipsius felonis quid valent et in quorum manibus existunt  
dicunt quod habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam xij. s. j. d. que bona  
et catalla remanent in manibus Ricardi de Aston' prebendarii prebende  
de Fynysbery. Et dicunt quod Johannes Brokkele cordewanarius  
ipsum primo invenit mortuum, levavit huthesium, qui manucaptus est  
per Johannem Marchal' et Petrum le Yonge. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> homines et pre-  
positi iiij<sup>or</sup> villatarum propinquiarum videlicet Isildon', Shordiche,  
Hakeneye et Stebyngthe hoc idem dicunt.

Feloniam

Catalla foris-  
facta <sup>1</sup>  
xij. s. j. d.

Totenham  
in comitatu  
predicto

Inquisicio capta ibidem coram predicto coronatore die Martis  
prox' post festum Sancti Marci<sup>2</sup> Evangeliste anno regni regis Edwardi  
tercii post conquestum xl<sup>mo</sup> super visum corporis ejusdam Thome  
Hostiler interfecti per sacramentum. . . <sup>3</sup> Qui dicunt quod accidit  
apud Totenham die Dominica prox' post festum Sancti Marci Evan-  
geliste anno supradicto ante solis occasum quod predictus Thomas  
Hostiler serviens Johannis Hogekeyn de Totinham venit extra clausum  
dicti Johannis Hogekeyn magistri sui et felonise insultum fecit Thome  
Westone in alta via vocata Totinhamstrete et dictum Thomam felonice  
prosequabatur cum cultello extracto ipsumque wlnervavit felonice in  
fuga sua. Et super hoc dictus Thomas Westone in sua defensione  
revertebatur et dictum Thomam Hostiler percussit cum uno cultello  
vocato thwytil' in latere sinistro plaga mortali qua plaga incontinenti  
moriebatur. Et super hoc dictus Thomas Westone defugit et dictum  
cultellum secum portavit, set ubi devenit nesciunt nec dicunt.  
Requisiti que bona dictus Thomas habuit die quo se retraxit et quan-  
tum valoris dicunt quod habuit bona ad valenciam xl. s. que remanent  
penes Johannem Brikelishworthe et Thomam de Erland vicecomites  
London et Midd'. Requisiti eciam quis primo invenit ipsum Thomam  
mortuum dicunt quod Johannes atte Lofte, qui manucaptus per  
Johannem Hori et Adam Tailour. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> homines et prepositi iiij<sup>or</sup>  
villatarum propinquiarum videlicet Enefeld, Edelmeton', Mymmis et  
Hakeneye hoc idem dicunt.

Feloniam

Catalla foris-  
facta xl. s.

<sup>1</sup> This word is written *for* or *fer* in this roll and in other rolls. <sup>2</sup> *Sic.* <sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

fortieth year,  
and the  
chattels  
were there  
adjudged  
and placed  
in the  
estreats

on his left side, inflicting a severe wound from which he died forthwith; and thus [Thomas] feloniously slew him. Being asked where the felon went after committing the act, they say that he at once fled, but whither they know not. Being also asked who was present when this happened, they say, Only those two. Being also asked what the felon's goods and chattels are worth and who has possession of them, they say that he had goods and chattels worth 13 s. 1 d., and that this property is in charge of Richard of Aston, prebendary of Finsbury. And they say that John Brockley, cordwainer, first found him dead, and he raised the hue; he was mainprised by John Marshall and Peter Young. And the four men and the reeves of four neighbouring townships, to wit, Islington, Shoreditch, Hackney, and Stepney, say the same.

Tottenham  
in the said  
county

Inquest was taken [at Tottenham] before the said coroner on Tuesday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the fortieth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of a certain Thomas Hosteller, who had been slain, on the oath of [twelve men]. They say that it happened at Tottenham before sun-set on Sunday next after St. Mark's day in the said year that Thomas Hosteller, servant of John Hodgkin of Tottenham, came from the close of his master, John Hodgkin, and feloniously assaulted Thomas Weston in the highway called Tottenham Street, and feloniously pursued the said Thomas with a drawn knife, and feloniously wounded him as he was fleeing. And thereupon the said Thomas Weston turned to defend himself, and he struck Thomas Hosteller a mortal wound in the left side with a knife called a thwitel, from which wound he died forthwith. And then Thomas Weston fled, and carried the said knife with him,<sup>2</sup> but they [the jurors] do not know or say whither he has gone. Being asked what goods the said Thomas had on the day on which he fled and what they were worth, they say that he had goods worth forty shillings, which remain with John Brixworth and Thomas of Ireland, sheriffs of London and Middlesex. Being also asked who first found Thomas dead, they say, John Loft; and he was mainprised by John Horey and Adam Taylor. And the four men and the reeves of four neighbouring townships, to wit, Enfield, Edmonton, Mimms, and Hackney, say the same.

<sup>1</sup> April 28, 1366.

<sup>2</sup> The knife was not left behind, and

hence its value as a deodand is not appraised.

Stoke  
Neuton' in  
comitatu  
predicto

Istud indita-  
mentum  
liberatum  
fuit coram  
rege termino  
Mich' anno  
xl. et catalla  
posita in  
extractis  
xl. d.

Inquisicio capta coram predicto coronatore die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Augustini anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu x<sup>l</sup><sup>mo</sup> super visum corporis Hugonis le Clerke mortui alia morte quam recta morte per sacramentum . . . Requisiti quis esset presens quando hoc accidit dicunt quod nemo nisi illi duo. Deinde inquisicio carcata ut certificarent de bonis et catallis dicti felonis ejus valoris sint. Dicunt quod valent in omnibus xl. d. de quibus respondebit Petrus Adam ballivus libertatis Sancti Pauli London'. Et dicunt quod Willelmus Kymbel dictum mortuum primo invenit et levavit huthesium, qui manucaptus est per Ricardum Clay seniore et Nicholaum Knyhet. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> homines et prepositi iiij<sup>or</sup> villatarum propinquiarum videlicet Shordiche, Isildon', Vinisberisokne et Stoke Neuton' hoc idem dicunt.

. . . . .

Stoke New-  
ington in  
the said  
county

Inquest was taken before the said coroner on Wednesday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Augustine in the fortieth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of Hugh Clerk, who died an unlawful death, on the oath [of twelve men, whose names are given. They say that on Sunday<sup>2</sup> before St. Dunstan's day a quarrel arose between Hugh the parish clerk of Stoke Newington and Walter Newton. Walter killed Hugh with a knife, but the latter was the assailant, and hence his death was merited. Walter fled forthwith.] Being asked who was present when this happened, they say, Only those two. Then the inquest being charged to certify concerning the value of the felon's goods and chattels, they say that these are worth in all forty pence, for which Peter Adam, bailiff of the liberty of St. Paul's, London, will account. And they say that William Kimble first found the dead body, and he raised the hue; he was mainprised by Richard Clay the elder and Nicholas Knight. And the four men and the reeves of four neighbouring townships, to wit, Shoreditch, Islington, Finsbury Soke, and Stoke Newington, say the same.

This indict-  
ment was  
laid before  
the king at  
Michaelmas  
term in the  
fortieth year  
and the  
chattels  
were placed  
in the  
estreats

Edmonton  
in the said  
county

[Inquest was taken before the same coroner on Saturday<sup>3</sup> before St. Barnabas, 40 Edw. III., on the oath of twelve men. They say that William Chaplain hit Cecily Sabarn with the leg of a bath, and she died eight days afterwards. In answer to various questions, the jurors say that Henry Chaplain was present, but was not an accessory of William, and that William fled forthwith. His goods are appraised at ten shillings, for which the sheriffs of London will account. The bath is appraised at four pence, and is placed in charge of the reeve and four men of Edmonton. The reeves and four men of Tottenham, Edmonton, Enfield, and South Mimms agree with the jurors. The first finder of the body produces two pledges.

This indict-  
ment . . .<sup>4</sup>

Enfield in  
the said  
county

Inquest was taken at Enfield before the same coroner on Wednesday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of Peter and Paul, 40 Edw. III. The twelve jurors say that two quarters of malt fell from a cart upon William Webb and killed him. In answer to questions, they say that no other person was present, and that the malt is worth ten shillings, for which the sheriffs of London will account. They say also that John Cook first found the dead body; he produces two sureties. The reeves and four men of Tottenham, Edmonton, South Mimms, and Enfield agree with the jurors.]

This indict-  
ment was  
laid before  
the king at  
Michaelmas  
term, 40  
Edw. III.

<sup>1</sup> May 27, 1366.

<sup>2</sup> May 17, 1366.

<sup>3</sup> June 6, 1366.

<sup>4</sup> This marginal note is the same as in the preceding case.

<sup>5</sup> July 1, 1366.



Stebbin-  
heth  
comitatu  
predicto

Inditamen-  
tum istud  
...<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio capta ibidem coram predicto coronatore die Dominica in vigilia Sancti Laurencii Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi tercii supradicto super visum corporis ejusdam Johannis Clerke teglatoris per sacramentum <sup>1</sup> . . . Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Laurencii Martiris anno supradicto quidam Adam Case manens in London' venit in villam de Stebbinheth videlicet in campo quodam subter dictam villam et ibidem insultavit predicto Johanni Clerke teglatore<sup>3</sup> per verba maliciosa et statim extraxit quendam cultellum longitudinis xij. pollicium et ipsum Johannem le Clerke felonice percussit cum dicto cultello donando grave vlnus in scapulo sinistro longitudinis j. pollicis et profunditatis xij. pollicium per quod vlnus statim cepit mortem. Requisiti si per abettum aut procuramentum alicujus hoc fecit dicunt quod non. Requisiti eciam ubi devenit ille felo dicunt quod captus fuit incontinenti et ductus ad gayolam de Newegate. Requisiti eciam de bonis et catallis suis quid valent et in quorum manibus sunt dicunt quod nichil habuit in dominio isto set infra civitatem London'. Requisiti eciam quis primo dictum mortuum invenit dicunt quod Thomas Clerke de Alegatestrete ipsum primo invenit et levavit luthesium. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> homines et prepositi iiij<sup>or</sup> villatarum propinquiarum videlicet Brambilleye, Estsmethefeld, Hackeneye et Shordyche hoc idem dicunt. Et dictus Thomas Clerke inventor manucaptus est per Johannem atte Grene carnificem London' et Henricum Bakere de Halywellestrete.

Nomaimiis  
London<sup>5</sup> in  
comitatu  
predicto

Inditamen-  
tum istud...<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Inquisicio capta ibidem coram predicto coronatore die Dominica prox' post festum Nativitatis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii supradicto super visum corporis Willelmi Brid defuncti loco predicto per sacramentum . . . <sup>6</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Dominica prox' post festum Asumpcionis Beate Marie Virginis anno supradicto quidam Robertus Chaude prefatum Willelmum Brid percussit cum uno baculo in capite et felonice ipsum vlnervit gravi plaga per quam plagam cepit mortem. Et dicunt quod nesciunt quantum profunditatis fuit vlnus nec longitudinis. Requisiti eciam ubi devenit ille felo post illud factum dicunt quod defugit set ubi nesciunt. Requisiti ulterius ubi et in quorum manibus devenerunt bona et catalla ipsius felonis dicunt quod nichil habet in comitatu predicto. Et dicunt quod Christiana Brid uxor illius defuncti primo ipsum invenit mortuum. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> homines et prepositi iiij<sup>or</sup> villatarum

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> The marginal note is the same as in the preceding inquest at Enfield.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> This case is on the dorse of the roll.

<sup>5</sup> London in full; the two final i's in the other word are dotted.

<sup>6</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>7</sup> As in the preceding two cases.

Stepney in  
the said  
county

Inquest was taken [at Stepney] before the said coroner on Sunday <sup>1</sup> the eve of St. Lawrence's day in the aforesaid year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of a certain John Clerk, tiler, on the oath [of twelve men]. They say on their oath that on Friday next before St. Lawrence's day in the said year Adam Case, an inhabitant of London, came to the vill of Stepney, namely to a certain field below that vill, and there insulted the said John Clerk, tiler, with opprobrious words, and forthwith drew a certain knife thirteen inches long, with which he feloniously struck John Clerk, making a severe wound on his left shoulder one inch long and thirteen inches deep, and this wound at once caused his death. Being asked whether [Adam] did this by the abetment or procurement of any person, they say, No. Being also asked whither the felon has gone, they say that he was arrested forthwith and taken to Newgate gaol. Being also asked what his goods and chattels are worth and who has them, they say that he has nothing in this lordship but only in the city of London. Being also asked who first found him dead, they say that Thomas Clerk of Aldgate Street first found him, and he raised the hue. And the four men and the reeves of four neighbouring townships, to wit, Bromley, East Smithfield, Hackney, and Shoreditch, say the same. Thomas Clerk, the finder, was mainprised by John Green, a butcher of London, and Henry Baker of Holywell Street.

Nomansland  
in the said  
county

Inquest was taken [at Nomansland <sup>2</sup>] on Sunday <sup>3</sup> next after the Nativity of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the aforesaid year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of William Bird who died in the said place, on the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that on Sunday next after the Assumption of Blessed Mary the Virgin <sup>4</sup> in the aforesaid year Robert Chaud struck William Bird on the head with a staff and feloniously gave him a severe wound, by which wound he came to his death. And they say that they do not know the depth or the length of the wound. Being also asked where the felon went after committing the act, they say that he fled, but they know not whither. Being further asked where and in whose hands his goods and chattels are, they say that he has nothing in that county. And they say that Christiana Bird, wife of the deceased, first found him dead. And the four men and the reeves of four neigh-

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 9, 1366.

<sup>2</sup> The place here referred to may be Nomansland. It lay to the north of the pre-

sent Smithfield market. See Domesday, i. 127 a.

<sup>3</sup> Sept. 13, 1366.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 16, 1366.

propinquiarum videlicet Hakeneye, Schordiche, Esildone et Westsmethefeld hoc idem dicunt. Et quia dicta Christiana inventrix prima defuncti non potuit invenire manueaptores juravit coram dicto coronatore quod in omni loco erit parata ad faciendum et sustinendum ea que sibi pro tali casu incumbunt<sup>1</sup> et lex exigit.

### MERSSCHLAND [NORFOLK<sup>2</sup>].

ROTULUS HUGONIS BURDI CORONATORIS DOMINI REGIS LIBERTATIS EPISCOPI ELIENSIS IN PARTIBUS MERSSCHLOND.

Mersschland

Quatuor villate presentant videlicet Tilneye, Tiryngton', Walsokne et Walpol' quod Johannes de Nettelham etatis triginta annorum inventus fuit occisus in marosco<sup>3</sup> de Mersschlond die Lune proxima post festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo quinto.

Wrenne

Inquisicio inde capta coram prefato coronatore apud Tiryngton' die Jovis prox' sequenti per . . .<sup>4</sup> jur' et per quatuor villatas predictas juratas. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Petrus Wrenne die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo quinto apud Tilneye videlicet [in] marisco de Merchssland<sup>5</sup> cum quodam cutello extracto insultum fecit in Johannem de Nettelham et eum felonice occidit cum dicto cutello percussiendo ipsum in brachio sinistro unde statim obiit. Et dictus Petrus statim fugit, et non habuit terras, bona neque catalla. Precium cutelli ij. d. unde villata de Tilneye respondebit.

Villate de Tiryngton', Walpol, Walsokne, Walton cum Enemeth' presentant quod die Dominica prox' ante festum Sancti Gregorii Pape anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto apud Walsokne circa horam nonam inventus fuit occisus . . .<sup>6</sup>

Ode

Inquisicio inde capta apud Walsokne die Lune prox' sequenti per . . .<sup>7</sup> jur' et per predictas quatuor villatas jur'. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Ode de Enemeth' die Sabbati prox' ante festum Sancti Gregorii Pape anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto apud Walsokne cum quodam

<sup>1</sup> MS. *incumbt*.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 20, one membrane, 35-36 Edw.  
III.

<sup>3</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>6</sup> Blank in MS.

<sup>5</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

bouring townships, to wit, Hackney, Shoreditch, Islington, and West Smithfield, say the same. And since Christiana, the first finder of the body, could not produce sureties, she swore before the said coroner that she would be ready at any time to do and sustain all that shall be incumbent upon her for such a case and all that the law shall require.

### MARSHLAND<sup>1</sup> [NORFOLK].

Marshland ROLL OF HUGH BIRDEY, THE KING'S CORONER OF THE LIBERTY OF THE BISHOP OF ELY IN THE PARTS OF MARSHLAND.

Four townships, to wit, Tilney, Terrington, Walsoken, and Walpole, present that John of Nettleham, who was thirty years of age, was found slain in the fens of Marshland on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third.

Inquest was taken before the said coroner at Terrington on the following Thursday by [twelve sworn men] and by the said four townships (sworn). They say on their oath that on Monday next after the feast of St. John the Baptist in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third Peter Wrenn assaulted John of Nettleham with a drawn knife at Tilney, to wit, in the fens of Marshland, and feloniously killed him by striking him with the said knife on the left arm, of which wound he died forthwith. Peter fled forthwith; and he had no lands, goods, or chattels. The knife was worth two pence, for which the township of Tilney will account.

The townships of Terrington, Walpole, Walsoken, and Walton with Emneth present that [Walter Caley] was found slain at Walsoken about the hour of none on Sunday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third.

Inquest was taken on the following Monday at Walsoken by [twelve sworn men] and by the said four townships (sworn). They say on their oath that on Saturday next before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third at Walsoken

<sup>1</sup> The present hundred of Freebridge-Marshland in Norfolk, the peninsula between King's Lynn and Cambridgeshire. Some of the manors in Marshland belonged

to the bishop of Ely, and for these there was evidently a separate coroner. See Blomefield, *Norfolk*, ix. 90, 101, 123, 134.

<sup>2</sup> June 28, 1361. <sup>3</sup> 3 p.m., March 6, 1362.



Catalla  
fugit'

<sup>2</sup> di' marce'.  
iiij. d.<sup>2</sup>

cutello vocato broche insultum fecit in Walterum filium Bartholomei Calye etatis xl<sup>a</sup> annorum et eum felonice occidit percussiendo ipsum in ventre in parte sinistra juxta umbilicum,<sup>1</sup> unde langwebat usque horam nonam die Dominica prox' sequenti et tunc inde obiit postquam habuit jura ecclesiastica. Et dicunt quod predictus Johannes Ode statim fugiit, qui habuit catalla ad valenciam dimidie marce unde villata de West Walton' cum Enemeth' respondebit. Precium cutelli iiij. d. unde dicta villata cum hamelett' respondebit. Et preceptum ipsum capere, etc.

Villate de Tiryngton, Walpol, Walsokne, West Walton cum hamellett' de Enemeth' presentant quod Robertus filius Ade de Enemeth' etatis quadraginta annorum die Lune prox' ante festum Sancte Margarete anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto apud Enemeth' inventus fuit occisus circa horam vespertinam.

Grauntpee

Unde die Martis prox' post festum Sancte Margarete anno supra dicto inquisicio inde capta apud Enemeth' per . . .<sup>3</sup> jur' et per predictas quatuor villatas jur'. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod quidam Willelmus Grauntpee de comitatu Hertford' die Lune prox' ante festum Sancte Margarete anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto apud Enemeth' cum quodam cutello extracto in Robertum filium Ade de Enemeth' insultum fecit et eum felonice occidit percussiendo eum cum dicto cutello usque ad cor, per quod eodem die circa solis occasum obiit postquam habuit jura ecclesiastica. Et nullus alius de morte predicta male creditur. Et idem Willelmus non habuit catalla, etc. Precium cutelli ob. unde villata de West Walton cum Enemeth' respondebit. Et dictus Willelmus statim post dictam feloniam factam captus fuit et prisone episcopi Eliensis de Derham missus fuit et traditus, etc.

ob.

Villate de Walsokne, West Walton' cum Enemeth', Walpol et Tiryngton' presentant quod die Jovis in festo Apostolorum Petri et Pauli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo sexto circa horam vespertinam inventus fuit occisus. . . .<sup>4</sup>

Inquisicio inde capta apud Tiryngton' coram Willelmo Alisaunder coronatore domini regis in comitatu Norff' et dicto Hugone coronatore domini regis libertatis episcopi Eliensis in partibus Merschland die

<sup>1</sup> MS. *umlic'*.

<sup>2-2</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>4</sup> Blank in MS.



John Odey of Emneth, with a knife called a broach, assaulted Walter, Bartholomew Caley's son, who was forty years of age, and feloniously killed him by striking him on the left side of the belly near the navel; and he suffered from this wound until the hour of none on the following Sunday, when he died, after having the rites of the church. And they say that John Odey fled forthwith, and he had chattels worth half a mark, for which the township of West Walton with Emneth will account. The knife was worth four pence, for which the said township with the hamlet<sup>1</sup> will account. It was ordered that he be arrested, etc.

The townships of Terrington, Walpole, Walsoken, and West Walton with the hamlet of Emneth present that Robert, son of Adam of Emneth, who was forty years of age, was found slain at Emneth about the hour of vespers on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Margaret in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third.

Inquest was taken at Emneth on Tuesday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. Margaret in the said year by [twelve sworn men] and by the said four townships (sworn). They say on their oath that on Monday next before the feast of St. Margaret in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third at Emneth a certain William Grantpee of Hertfordshire assaulted Robert, son of Adam of Emneth, with a drawn knife, and feloniously killed him by striking him with the said knife to the heart; and thereof he died on the same day about sunset, after receiving the rites of the church. And no other person is suspected of the said death. William had no chattels, etc.; the knife is worth a half-penny, for which the township of West Walton with Emneth will account. And the said William was arrested immediately after committing the act and was sent and delivered to the prison of the bishop of Ely at Dereham, etc.

The townships of Walsoken, West Walton with Emneth, Walpole, and Terrington present that [John Thurkle] was found slain about the hour of vespers on Thursday the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul<sup>4</sup> in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third.

Inquest was taken at Terrington before William Alexander, the king's coroner in the county of Norfolk, and before the said Hugh, the king's coroner of the liberty of the bishop of Ely in the parts of

<sup>1</sup> Emneth.

<sup>2</sup> July 18, 1362.

<sup>3</sup> July 26, 1362.

<sup>4</sup> June 29 is the date of that feast, but in 1362 it was on Wednesday, not Thursday.

Nomina  
ignota

j. d.  
In m.<sup>3</sup>

Jovis prox' ante festum Translacionis Sancti Thome Archiepiscopi anno regni regis Edwardi tereii post conquestum xxxvj. per . . .<sup>1</sup> jur' et per quatuor villatas predictas jur'. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Thurkel de Walsokne etatis triginta annorum die Jovis in festo Apostolorum Petri et Pauli anno supradicto apud Walsokne occisus fuit cum extraneis sagittariis de comitatu Cantebr' quorum nomina penitus ignorant tractantibus<sup>2</sup> arcus suos cum sagittis ferri versus eum, et quidam eorum cum quadam sagitta tractata ipsum sagittavit in ventre in parte dextera unde statim obiit. Precium sagitte j. d. unde villata de Walsokne respondebit.

### [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>4</sup>]

Mem. 1

Pokebrok

Accidit apud Pokebrok die Sabbati prox' post Ascencionem Domini anno regni regis Edwardi xxix. quod quidam Reginaldus Porthors de Pokebrok et Radulphus le Chapman de eadem venerunt post prandium ad domum Johannis de Weldon' de Pokebrok per preceptum domini Radulphi Porthors de eadem ad ducendum ipsum Johannem ad curiam domini Radulphi Porthors vivum vel mortuum et invenerunt ipsum Johannem dormientem. Dictus Reginaldus percussit ipsum in sinistra parte capitis usque ad cerebrum de quodam gladio unde recepit mortem. Et dictus Radulphus le Chapman percussit ipsum super dorsum cum quadam hachia que vocatur sparht. Set vixit ab illa hora usque diem Martis prox' post festum S. Trinitatis prox' sequens,<sup>5</sup> confessus fuit et communicatus et tunc moriebatur.

Inquisicio inde facta coram J. de Aston' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Oundel cum Elmintone et Aston', Hemington et Wermintone, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud inde sciunt nisi ut supradictum est. Et dicunt quod dicti Reginaldus et Radulphus le Chapman abstulerunt a dicto Johanne x. s. et unum quadrantem et asportaverunt, et statim abierunt ad curiam dicti domini Radulphi Porthors. Et decenarii de Pokebrok secuti fuerunt ipsos ibidem cum

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.      <sup>2</sup> MS. *tractante*.

<sup>3</sup> The township of Walsoken seems to have been amereed.

<sup>4</sup> Roll 106, eleven membranes, 27 Edw. I. -20 Edw. II., containing about one hundred

and fifty-six inquests, twenty-three cases of abjuration before the coroner and four villis, five cases of exigent by order of the Crown, and six appeals.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *sequent*.

Marshland, on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Archbishop in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third, by [twelve sworn men] and by the said four townships (sworn). They say on their oath that on Thursday the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the aforesaid year John Thurkle of Walsoken, who was thirty years of age, was killed at Walsoken by foreign archers of Cambridgeshire, whose names are utterly unknown [to the jurors]; they discharged at him iron arrows from their bows, and one of [the archers] struck him with a discharged arrow on the right side of the belly, of which wound he died forthwith. The arrow was worth one penny, for which the township of Walsoken will account.

### [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Polebrook

It happened at Polebrook on Saturday<sup>2</sup> next after Ascension Day in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward [the First] that a certain Reginald Porthors and Ralph Chapman, both of Polebrook, went after dinner to the house of John of Weldon of Polebrook, by order of Sir Ralph Porthors of Polebrook, to bring the said John to Sir Ralph's court alive or dead, and they found John asleep. The said Reginald struck him on the left side of the head with a certain sword, [which penetrated] to the brain, and thus he came to his death. And Ralph Chapman struck him on the back with a certain axe called a sparthe.<sup>3</sup> But he lived until Tuesday<sup>4</sup> next after the following Trinity Sunday, when he died after confessing and partaking of the communion.

Inquest was made before John of Ashton by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Oundle with Elmington, and Ashton, Hemington, and Warmington. They say on their oath that they know nothing more thereof except as is aforesaid. And they say that the said Reginald and Ralph Chapman took from the said John and carried away ten shillings and a farthing; and then they went forthwith to the court of Sir Ralph Porthors. The tithing-men of Polebrook

<sup>1</sup> June 30, 1362.

<sup>2</sup> May 13, 1301.

<sup>3</sup> A halberd.

<sup>4</sup> May 30.

hutesio volentes ipsos atachiare. Et dictus dominus Radulphus Porthors noluit permittere decenarios intrare curiam suam set recettavit dictos Reginaldum et Radulphum ante factum et post factum ita quod postea fugierunt nescitur quo. Catalla eorum nulla. Precium gladii xij. d., precium hachie iiij. d. Villata de Pokebrok respondebit. Item villata de Pokebrok dicit per se quod dicti Reginaldus et Radulphus le Chapman venerunt per preceptum dicti domini Radulphi Porthors ad domum dicti Johannis de Weldon' ad ducendam Johannam uxorem ejus ad curiam dicti domini Radulphi Porthors et ponere ipsam in ceppis suis et non aliter. Et preceptum est R. de Veer vicecomiti North' predictos dominum Radulphum Porthors, Reginaldum Porthors et Radulphum le Chapman capere.

Tichemers

Accidit apud Tichemers die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxix. quod quidam Henricus Wymer de Tichemers debuit<sup>1</sup> ligare carectam suam oneratam de feno, per infortunium cecidit ad terram per quod fregit collum unde statim moriebatur. Inquisicio inde facta coram G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Tichemers, Trapstone, Thorp cum Achirche et Cloptone, que dicunt ut supra. Et dicunt villate quod neminem habent suspectum nisi infortunium. Precium carecte cum hernasio ij. s. viij. d., precium feni xvij. d., precium jumenti iiij. s. Villata de Tichemers respondebit.

Wadenho

Accidit apud Wadenho die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Laurencii anno regni regis Edwardi xxix. quod quidam Robertus filius Julian' de Wadenho inventus fuit submersus in quadam riparia<sup>2</sup> subtus Wadenho nullam habens plagam. Alicia soror ejus primo invenit eum. Plegii ejus Robertus filius Walteri de Wadenho et Willelmus Mordak. Inquisicio inde facta coram G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Wadenho, Pilketon', Thorp cum Achirche. Et Alde-wynce summonita non venit. Que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod dictus Robertus debuit bahiare in quodam loco qui vocatur Forth infra dictam ripariam et per infortunium se ipsum submersit, et dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud sciunt.

Tichemers

Accidit apud Tichemers die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxix. quod quidam Willelmus de

<sup>1</sup> For the meaning of this word, see the Glossary.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *quodam ripar'*; in all the cases

printed below in which this word occurs, the roll has *ripar'*.

followed them thither with the hue, intending to attach them. And Sir Ralph would not allow the tithingmen to enter his court, but he received the said Reginald and Ralph before and after the act; and they afterwards fled to some unknown place. They had no chattels. The sword was worth twelve pence, the axe four pence; the township of Polebrook will answer for these. Also the township of Polebrook by itself says that the said Reginald and Ralph Chapman went to the house of John of Weldon, by order of Sir Ralph Porthors, to bring Joan, [John's] wife, to Sir Ralph's court and to place her in his stocks, and for no other purpose. R. de Vere, sheriff of Northamptonshire, is ordered to arrest Sir Ralph Porthors, Reginald Porthors, and Ralph Chapman.

Titchmarsh

It happened at Titchmarsh on Monday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. James the Apostle in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward that a certain Henry Wymer of Titchmarsh, so it is said, tied up his cart which was loaded with hay, [when] by misadventure he fell to the ground, broke his neck, and died forthwith. Inquest was made before G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Titchmarsh, Thrapston, Thorpe Achurch, and Clapton. They say as above; they suspect nobody; it was merely a misadventure. The cart with the harness was worth 2s. 8*d.*, the hay 18*d.*, the mare 4*s.*, and for these the township of Titchmarsh will account.

Wadenhoe

It happened at Wadenhoe on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Lawrence in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward that a certain Robert, son of Julian of Wadenhoe, was found drowned in a certain stream<sup>3</sup> below Wadenhoe, and he had no wound. His sister Alice, who first found him, produced pledges: Walter of Wadenhoe and William Mordak. Inquest was made before G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Wadenhoe, Pilton, Thorpe Achurch; Aldwinkle was summoned but did not come. They say on their oath that Robert took a bath, so it is said, in a certain place called Forth in that stream and by misadventure was drowned; and they say on their oath that they know nothing more.

Titchmarsh

It happened at Titchmarsh on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. James the Apostle in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward that

<sup>1</sup> July 24, 1301.<sup>2</sup> Aug. 7, 1301.<sup>3</sup> Probably the Nen.<sup>4</sup> July 31, 1301.



Swyneford' in Tichemers moriebatur de quadam plaga habuit<sup>1</sup> in capite de quodam pollhache usque ad cerebrum. Inquisicio inde facta coram J. de Aston' et G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinquiores videlicet Tichemers, Thorp cum Achirche, Trapstone et Cloptone. Que dicit inquisicio xij. juratorum cum villatis supradictis videlicet Trapstone et Cloptone per sacramentum suum quod quedam contencio oriebatur apud Trapstone die Sancti Jacobi anno supradicto inter quemdam Ricardum filium Henrici de Aldewyncele et Ricardum filium Johannis de Mollesworthe per quod dictus Ricardus de Aldewyncele percussit dictum Ricardum cum quodam baculo et fecit sibi quamdam plagam in capite et male verberabatur. Et quidam Willelmus tunc rector ecclesie de Achirche fuit presens in contencione predicta et percussit dictum Willelmum de Swyneforde qui fuit presens in capite per quod recepit mortem, set loquebatur, confessus fuit et communicatus et vixit per sex dies et tunc moriebatur. Tichemers et Thorp cum Achirche dicunt per sacramentum quod quidam Johannes tunc rector ecclesie Omnium Sanctorum in Aldewyncele fuit presens in illa contencione predicta et percussit dictum Willelmum de quodam pollax in capite per quod recepit mortem. Dictus Willelmus rector ecclesie de Achirche post illud factum fugit nescitur quo. Ideo preceptum est quod attachietur. . . .

Villata de Tichemers non venit ad comitatum ad presentandum.

. . . . .

Elmintone.  
Mem. 2

Accidit apud Elmyntone die Mercurii prox' post festum Epiphanie anno regni regis [Edwardi] xxx. quod quidam Johannes filius Simonis Prodome de Elminton inventus fuit submersus in quodam fossato infra pratum de Elmintone nullam habens plagam. Simon pater ejus primo invenit eum. Plegii ejus Simon de Elmintone et Walterus filius Simonis de eadem. Inquisicio [inde] facta coram G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Elmintone, Undele, Astone et Pokebrok, que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod sicut dictus Johannes filius Simonis transivit pontem de Aston' versus Undele pro cervisia petenda pede lidente cecidit in ripariam de Nene per quod submersus fuit, et per flumen dicte riparie ductus fuit in fossato ubi inventus fuit.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *hūt* or *hūt*.

a certain William of Swinford died at Titchmarsh of a certain wound which he received on the head from a pole-axe, [and which penetrated] to the brain. Inquest was made before John of Ashton and G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Titchmarsh, Thorpe Achurch, Thrapston, and Clapton. An inquest of twelve jurors together with the aforesaid townships of Thrapston and Clapton say on their oath that on St. James's day in the said year a quarrel arose at Thrapston between Richard, son of Henry of Aldwinkle, and Richard, son of John of Molesworth; and Richard of Aldwinkle struck Richard [of Molesworth] with a certain staff, wounding him in the head and badly beating him. And a certain William, the then rector of the church of Achurch, was present at the quarrel and struck William of Swinford (who was also present) on the head, and thus he came by his death; but [William] spoke, confessed, and partook of the communion, and then, after surviving six days, he died. Titchmarsh and Thorpe Achurch say on oath that John, the then rector of the church of All Saints in Aldwinkle, was present at the said quarrel, and struck the said William on the head with a pole-axe, and thus he came to his death. The said William, rector of the church of Achurch, fled, after the act [had been committed], to some unknown place. Therefore it is ordered that he be attached. [His chattels are appraised. John, the other rector, withdrew to his church; he is to be attached; his chattels are appraised. The pole-axe is worth six pence, for which Thrapston will account. The two Richards are to be attached.] The township of Titchmarsh did not come to the county court to make presentment.

. . . . .

Elmington

It happened at Elmington on Wednesday <sup>1</sup> next after the Epiphany in the thirtieth year of King Edward that John, son of Simon Prodome of Elmington, was found drowned in a certain ditch in a meadow of Elmington, and he had no wound. His father, Simon, who first found him, produced pledges: Simon of Elmington and Walter, son of Simon of Elmington. Inquest was made before G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Elmington, Oundle, Ashton, and Polebrook. They say on their oath that, as the said John, son of Simon, was crossing the bridge from Ashton to Oundle to procure beer, his foot slipped, and, falling into the river Nen, he was drowned; and he was carried by the water of that river into the ditch where he

<sup>1</sup> Jan. 10, 1302.



Elmintone, Undele et Pokebrok non venerunt ad comitatum ad presentandum.

. . . . .

Bernewelle

Accidit in prato de Bernewelle subtus Armistone subtus quemdam pontem qui vocatur Childerbrigge die Dominica prox' ante festum Apostolorum Philippi et Jacobi anno regni regis Edwardi xxx. quod quidam Oliverus de Armestone inventus fuit mortuus habens collum extortum. Amicia de Waltone primo invenit eum. Plegii ejus Salamon Raven de Armestone et Willelmus Fulpyt de eadem. Inquisicio inde facta coram G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Bernewelle cum Crowthorp, Oundele. Pokebrok cum Armestone summonita non venit. Que dicunt villate quod sicut dictus Oliverus veniebat de Oundele die Dominica supradicta transivit dictum pontem versus Armestone et in transeundo pede lidente cecidit de ponte usque ad terram in aquam per quod se ipsum submersit. Et dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud inde sciunt. Inquisicio xij. juratorum dicit quod dictus Oliverus in transeundo dictum pontem obviavit inimicis suis et ipsum ceperunt et collum suum extorserunt et postea in aquam ipsum projecerunt.

Wermintone

Accidit apud Wermintone die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Dunstani anno regni regis Edwardi xxx. quod quidam Robertus filius Willelmi Greygos inventus fuit submersus in quadam riparia<sup>1</sup> subtus manerium de Wermintone. Johannes frater ejus primo invenit eum. Plegii ejus Johannes Prepositus de Wermintone et R. pater ejus. Inquisicio inde facta coram G. de Lolligt' per iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Elmintone, Wermintone, Pappcle. Et Pokebrok summonita non venit. Que dicunt per sacramentum suum quod sicut dictus Johannes ivit juxta ripariam pede lidente cecidit in ripariam per quod se ipsum submersit. Nomina xij. juratorum Henricus filius Ade de Wermintone, Henricus Aubry de eadem, Henricus Bretoun de eadem, Galfridus Percurlo, Galfridus Freman de Pappcle, Radulphus Discy, Willelmus Carpentar', Robertus Brunyene, Henricus Flexman, Willelmus Faber, Rogerus de Elmintone, Johannes Faber de eadem. Isti dicunt quod nichil aliud inde sciunt nisi quam supradictum est.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> MS. *quodam ripar'*.

was found. Elmington, Oundle, and Polebrook did not come to the county court to make presentment.

. . . . .

Barnwell

It happened in a meadow of Barnwell below Armston under a bridge called Childerbridge on Sunday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Philip and James in the thirtieth year of King Edward that a certain Oliver of Armston was found dead, and his neck was dislocated. Amice of Walton, who first found him, produced pledges: Solomon Raven and William Fulpit, both of Armston. Inquest was made before G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Barnwell with Crowthorp, and Oundle; Polebrook with Armston was summoned, but did not come. The townships say that, as Oliver was going from Oundle across the said bridge toward Armston on the said Sunday, his foot slipped, and, falling from the bridge to the ground into the water, he was drowned. And they say on their oath that they know nothing more about it. An inquest of twelve jurors say that the said Oliver, while crossing the bridge, met some of his enemies, who, laying hold of him, dislocated his neck and threw him into the water.

Warmington

It happened at Warmington on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Dunstan in the thirtieth year of King Edward that Robert, son of William Greygoose, was found drowned in a certain river below the manor of Warmington. His brother John, who first found him, produced pledges: John Reeve of Warmington and R. [John Reeve's] father. Inquest was made before G. of Luddington by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Elmington, Warmington, and Papley; Polebrook was summoned, but did not come. They say on their oath that, as the said John was walking near the river, his foot slipped, and, falling into the water, he was drowned. The names of the twelve jurors: Henry, son of Adam of Warmington, Henry Aubrey, Henry Briton (both of Warmington), Geoffrey Percurlo, Geoffrey Freeman of Papley, Ralph Dicey, William Carpenter, Robert Browning, Henry Flexman, William Smith, Roger of Elmington, John Smith of Elmington; and they say that they know nothing more thereof except as is aforesaid.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> April 29, 1302.

<sup>2</sup> May 14, 1302.

Isham,  
Mem. 2 d.

Accidit apud Isham in vigilia Circumcisionis Domini anno regni regis Edwardi tercio quod quidam Thomas Clericus filius Johannis le Ca[r]penter de Norhampton' mortuus fuit in domo sua. Inquisicio inde facta coram J. de Wyleby vicecomite Norht' et H. Daundely coronatore per xij. juratores<sup>1</sup> videlicet . . .<sup>2</sup> et per iiij. vill' propinquiores videlicet Isham, Harwedone cum Harwedone, Pycheesle, Orlingbere cum Wythemale et Bateshale. . . .

. . . . .

Mem. 3 d.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis in crastino Sancti Petri ad Vincula anno regni regis Edwardi vij. venit breve domini regis in hec verba.

Breve

Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie, dominus Hybernie et dux Aquitanie vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod exigi facias Johannem Dotyne Du Boys de comitatu in comitatum quousque secundum legem et consuetudinem regni nostri utlagetur si non comparuerit. Et si comparuerit tunc eum capias et salvo in prisona nostra custodias, ita quod habeas corpus ejus coram nobis in Octabis S. Hillarii ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia ad respondendum Alexandro de Bowdone de placito quare vi et armis in ipsum Alexandrum apud Brykelesworthe insultum fecit et ipsum verberavit, vulneravit et male tractavit et alia enormia ei intulit ad grave dampnum ipsius Alexandri et contra pacem nostram ut dicit, et unde tu ipse nobis retornasti in crastino Sancti Johannis Baptiste quod predictus Johannes non est inventus nec aliquid habet in balliva tua per quod potest atachiari. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste R. le Brabazone apud Westm' xxv. die Junii anno regni nostri sexto.

Ad predictum comitatum Norht' predictus Johannes Dotyne Du Boys primo interrogatus est.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis in crastino Decollacionis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi vij<sup>o</sup> predictus Johannes Dotyne Du Boys secundo interrogatus est.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *jur*' here and generally throughout this and the other coroners' rolls.

<sup>2</sup> Fourteen names.



Isham

It happened at Isham on the eve<sup>1</sup> of the Circumcision of the Lord in the third year of King Edward [the Second] that a certain Thomas Clerk, son of John Carpenter of Northampton, died in his house. Inquest was made before J. of Wilby, the sheriff of Northamptonshire, and H. Dandley, the coroner, by twelve jurors, to wit [fourteen names], and by the four neighbouring townships, to wit, Isham, [Great] Harrowden with [Little] Harrowden, Pytchley, Orlingbury with Withmale, and Badsaddle. [They say that on St. Peter's Day there was a game called 'le wrastleng' at Isham, which attracted many people; a quarrel arose, and Thomas was shot with an arrow; he recovered from his wound, but died of a disease called 'le flux.'<sup>2</sup>]

. . . . .

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>3</sup> the morrow of St. Peter's Chains in the seventh year of King Edward, a writ of our lord the king came in these words.

Edward by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. We order you to cause John Dotine Du Boys to be exacted from county court to county court, until he be outlawed according to the law and custom of our realm, if he should not appear. And if he should appear, arrest him and keep him securely in our prison, so that you may have his body before us on the octaves of St. Hilary, wherever in England we may then be, to answer the plea of Alexander of Bowden, wherefore with force and arms he assaulted, beat, wounded, and ill-treated the said Alexander at Brixworth, and committed other enormities against him to the great injury of the said Alexander and against our peace, so he says; and whereof you yourself did return unto us on the morrow of St. John the Baptist that the said John was not to be found in your bailiwick, and possessed nothing there by which he could be attached. And have this writ there. Witness Roger Brabazon at Westminster on the twenty-fifth day of June in the sixth year of our reign.

At the said county court of Northampton the said John Dotine Du Boys was exacted for the first time.

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>4</sup> the morrow of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist in the seventh year of King Edward, the said John Dotine Du Boys was exacted the second time.

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 31, 1309.<sup>2</sup> Dysentery.<sup>3</sup> Aug. 2, 1313.<sup>4</sup> Aug. 30, 1313.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Michaelis Arcangeli anno predicto predictus Johannes Dotyne Du Boys tercio interrogatus est.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' ante festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno predicto predictus Johannes Dotyne Du Boys quarto interrogatus est et manucaptus est per Ricardum Luvel.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis in vigilia Sancti Clementis Pape anno predicto predictus Johannes Dotyne Du Boys quinto interrogatus est et non venit. Ideo per judicium et consideracionem tocus comitatus utlagatus est.

. . . . .

Unlle.  
Mem. 5

Accidit in villa de Undele in domo Willelmi Pyketo die Lune in crastino Pentecostes anno regni regis Edwardi v<sup>o</sup> quod quidam Willelmus de Castell' de Bernewelle confessus et communicatus moriebatur habens capud quassatum de quodam baculo et j. plagam in tibia sinistra quodam gladio ut videtur. Inquisicio inde facta coram H. Raundel' et J. de Astone per iiij. vill' propinq', Undele et Wer-mintone, que dicunt per se super sacramentum suum quod . . . Et xij. juratores dicunt per sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud inde sciunt nisi ut supradictum est. Predicti Ricardus Ponder, Willelmus le Lime-nour et Johannes Blogwyne statim post factum fugerunt nescitur quo. Catalla eorum nulla. Preceptum est J. de Wyleby tunc vicecomiti Norht' predictos R. Ponder, Willelmum le Limenour et Johannem Blogwyne capere. Precium baculi j. d., precium gladii xij. d., precium fawchoun xij. d. Villata de Undele respondebit.

.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi v<sup>o</sup> Margareta que fuit uxor Willelmi de Castell' de Bernwelle juxta Undel invenit plegios de prosequendo appellum versus Johannem Blogwyne de Undele de morte

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next before Michaelmas in the said year, the said John was exacted the third time.

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the said year, the said John was exacted the fourth time, and he was mainprised by Richard Lovel.

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>3</sup> the eve of St. Clement the Pope in the said year, the said John was exacted the fifth time and did not appear. Therefore by the judgment and award of the whole county court he was outlawed.

Oundle

It happened in the vill of Oundle in the house of William Pyketo on Monday<sup>4</sup> the morrow of Whit Sunday in the fifth year of King Edward that a certain William Castle of Barnwell died after confessing and partaking of the communion; and his head had been crushed by a staff, and he had a wound on his left leg, made, as it seems, by a sword. Inquest was made before H. Randle and John of Ashton by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Oundle and Warming-ton. They say by themselves on their oath [that Richard Ponder hit William Castle on the head with a staff, and William Limner wounded him on the left leg with a sword, and he died of these two wounds. But the townships of Benefield and Stoke say that John Blogwine also hit him in the leg with a falchion,<sup>5</sup> and that he died of these three wounds]. And twelve jurors say on their oath that they know nothing else except as is aforesaid. Richard Ponder, William Limner, and John Blogwine, after committing the act, fled forthwith to some place unknown. They had no chattels. John of Wilby, the then sheriff of Northampton, was ordered to arrest the said Richard Ponder, William Limner, and John Blogwine. The staff was worth one penny, the sword twelve pence, and the falchion twelve pence; the township of Oundle will account for these.

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>6</sup> next before the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the fifth year of King Edward, Margaret, formerly the wife of William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, finds pledges to prosecute her appeal against John Blogwine of Oundle for the death of the said William, formerly her

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 27, 1313.

<sup>2</sup> Oct. 25, 1313.

<sup>3</sup> Nov. 22, 1313.

<sup>4</sup> May 15, 1312.

<sup>5</sup> *fawchoun*.

<sup>6</sup> June 8, 1312.

dicti Willelmi quondam viri sui videlicet Johannem Porthors de Pokebrok et Robertum de Suttone de Bernewelle, et statim appellat<sup>1</sup> dictum Johannem in hec verba.

Appellum

Margarete qe fu la femme Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undele ke cy est apelle Johan Blogwyne de Undele de la mort li avantdist Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undel jadis sun baron occis entre ces braz, ke la ou mesmes ceste Margarete et li avantdist Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undele jadis son baron furent en la pees diew e en la pees nostre seignur le rey Edward, qi ore est qi dew gard, le Lundi en la Symayne de Pentecouste en Maii le an del regne nostre seignur le rey Edward, qi ore est qi dew gard, quint a hure de vespre en la vile de Undel ke est en le conte de Norht' sur le pont ke est appelle en Engleys Crowethorpbrigge, ke est de pere e de morter et ke mene outre lewe ke est appelle Nene de Undel vers le norht et Crowthorp vers le suht, la laure del pont partit xij. peez de homme par entre les deus croiz esteauns sur mesme le pont, a xx. peez de homme de la croiz vers le norht e a xl. peez de homme de lautre croiz vers le suht, sur une arche de mesme le pont en coste vers le west, la vynt Johan Blogwyne de Undel fellownessement come fellow nostre seignur le rey e en contre la pees nostre seignur le rey e sa coronne e sa dignete mesme le jour mesme le an mesme la hure avantditz sur mesme le pont avantnome apoy joignant cors al cors en ageyt e en assalt purpense e li avant dist Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undele jadis baron mesme ceste Margarete fellownessement come fellow nostre seignur le rey assailly e le dist Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undele jadis son baron fellownessement come fellow nostre seignur le rey ferry de une espee forbee de feer e de ascer, dont la longure estoyt de iiij. peez de homme e demi e la laure juste le hilt iiij. pouz de homme e demi e en miliu iiij. pouz e al chef un pouz de homme, dunt lallimele esteyt de fer e de ascer medle e le hilt e le pomel de fer bien forbiz e le tenoun de feer lie e frette de fil de fer. E de cele espee li fist une plaie mortele tant cume ele ly tint entre ses bras en la jaumbe senestre a v. pouz de home del jaret, la longure de la plaie viij. pouz de homme, la laure iiij. pouz de homme e la parfundesce iiij. pouz de homme, e li trencha parmi le braun atrasvers jekes as os, issike si autre plaie ne coup ny eust enz de cele plaie ust este mort. Dunc de cele plaie mesme le jour al solail rescouz ly avant dist Willem del Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undel jadis baron mesme ceste Margarete entre ses bras morust. Ceste felonie fist li avant dist Johan Blogwyne de Undele felonnessement come fellow nostre seignur

<sup>1</sup> MS. *apell*'.



husband, to wit, John Porthors of Polebrook and Robert of Sutton of Barnwell; and forthwith she appeals the said John in the following words.

Margaret, formerly the wife of William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, who is here, appeals John Blogwine of Oundle for the death of the said William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, formerly her husband, who was killed in her arms, for that on Monday of Whitsun week at the hour of vespers in May in the fifth year of our lord King Edward, who now reigns (God guard him), while Margaret and the said William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, formerly her husband, were in the peace of God and of our lord King Edward, who now reigns (God guard him), in the vill of Oundle in Northamptonshire, on an arch on the west side of a bridge called in English Crowthorp bridge, which is built of stone and mortar, and crosses the river Nen from Oundle on the north to Crowthorp on the south (the width of the bridge is twelve feet between the two crosses which stand upon it, and it extends twenty feet from one cross towards the north and forty feet from the other cross towards the south), John Blogwine of Oundle came there on the said bridge, at the said hour of the said day and year, feloniously and as a felon of our lord the king and against the king's peace, his crown and his dignity, almost joining body to body in await<sup>1</sup> and with premeditated assault, and he assaulted the said William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, formerly the husband of the said Margaret, feloniously and as a felon of our lord the king, and struck the said William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, formerly her husband, feloniously and as a felon of our lord the king, with a polished sword of iron and steel. Its length was four feet and a half; its width near the hilt was three inches and a half, in the centre three inches, and at the end one inch; the blade was of iron and steel intermixed, the hilt and the pommel were of well-polished iron, and the handle was of iron bound and fretted with iron threads. And with that sword, while she held [William] in her arms, [John] gave him a mortal wound on the left leg five inches from the knee; the wound was eight inches long, four inches wide, and four inches deep, extending through the brawn to the bone, so that if there had been no other wound or blow, he would have died of that wound. Thus of that very wound the said William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, formerly the husband of the said Margaret, died in her arms at sunset of the said day. This felony the said John Blogwine of Oundle committed feloniously and as a felon of our lord the king against his

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* lying in wait. See Murray, *New Engl. Dict.* s.v. 'await.'



le rey encontre sa pecz e sa coronne e sa dignete. E quant ceste mort e ceste fellonie aveit fayt fellonnesment come fellon nostre seignur le rey sisen fuist tantost. E mesme ceste Margarete, ke fu la femme Willem de Chastel de Bernewelle juste Undel e ke cy est, freschement mesme la hure mesme le jour mesme le an avantditz e en mesme le luy avantditz leva hu e crye sur ly avantdist Johan Blogwyne de Undele come sur fellon nostre seignur le rey e siwy freschement de vile en vile jekes ales iiij. viles prochaines en viron e ensi ales bailifs nostre seignur le rey e des bailifs as corouners e ensi a prochein counte ke ore est. E si ly avantdit Johan Blogwyne de Undele cete morte e cete felonie vodra dedire, meme cete Margarete ke fu la femme ly avandit Willem qe cy est est preste aprover le parquant ke cete court arde ke prover le deive come femme vers homme.

Ad comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis in vigilia Translacionis Sancti Thome Martiris anno supradicto finiente predicta Margareta prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Johannem Blogwyne de Undele qui primo vocatus est et non comparuit.

Et ad secundum comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Petri ad Vincula anno regni regis Edwardi vj. intrante predicta Margareta prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Johannem Blogwyne de Undele qui secundo vocatus est et non comparuit.

Et ad tercium comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' post festum Decollacionis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno supradicto predicta Margareta prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Johannem Blogwyne de Undele qui tercio vocatus est et non comparuit.

Et ad quartum comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis in vigilia Sancti Michaelis anno supradicto predicta Margareta prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Johannem Blogwyne de Undele qui quarto vocatus est et non venit set manueaptus per Willelmum le Baxtere de Undele.

Et ad quintum comitatum Norht' tentum die Jovis prox' ante festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno predicto predicta Margareta prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Johannem Blogwyne de Undele. Et venit breve domini regis ad removendum appellum ut patet in hec verba.

Breve

Edwardus dei gratia, etc. vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod appellum quod Margareta que fuit uxor Willelmi de Castell'

peace, his crown, and his dignity. And after causing this death and doing this felony feloniously and as a felon of our lord the king, he fled forthwith. And the said Margaret, who was the wife of William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle and who is here, at once at the said hour of the said day and year and at the aforesaid place raised the hue and cry against the said John Blogwine of Oundle, as against a felon of our lord the king, and she at once made suit from vill to vill to the four neighbouring vills, and so to the bailiffs of our lord the king, and from the bailiffs to the coroners, and so to the next county court,<sup>1</sup> which is now [being held]. And if the said John Blogwine of Oundle will deny this death and this felony, the said Margaret, formerly the wife of the said William, who is here, is ready to prove it, in such wise as the court considers that as a woman she ought to prove it against a man.

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>2</sup> the eve of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr at the end of the said year, Margaret prosecuted her appeal against John Blogwine of Oundle, who was exacted for the first time, but did not appear.

And at the second<sup>3</sup> county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Peter's Chains at the beginning of the sixth year of King Edward, Margaret prosecuted her appeal against John Blogwine of Oundle, who was exacted the second time, but did not appear.

And at the third county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist in the said year, Margaret prosecuted her appeal against John Blogwine of Oundle, who was exacted the third time, but did not appear.

And at the fourth county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>6</sup> the eve of Michaelmas in the said year, Margaret prosecuted her appeal against John Blogwine, who was exacted the fourth time and did not appear, but he was mainprised by William Baxter of Oundle.

And at the fifth county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>7</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the said year, Margaret prosecuted her appeal against John Blogwine of Oundle. And a writ of the king was received removing the appeal [from the county court], as hereafter appears.

Edward by the grace of God, etc. to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. We order you to cause the appeal which Margaret, formerly

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 18.      <sup>2</sup> July 6, 1312.

125 b.

<sup>3</sup> The second session after that in which John was first appealed. Cf. Bracton, fol.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 3, 1312.

<sup>5</sup> Sept. 28, 1312.

<sup>6</sup> Aug. 31, 1312.

<sup>7</sup> Oct. 26, 1312.

de Bernewelle juxta Undele facit in comitatu tuo versus Johannem Blogwyne de Undele, Walterum de Castre, Johannem Papoloun de Undele et Nicholaum le Aketouner de Undele de morte predicti Willelmi quondam viri sui venire facias coram justiciariis nostris apud Westmonasterium in crastino S. Martini cum atachiamenis et omnibus aliis adminiculis appellum illud tangentibus. Et die prefate Margarete quod tunc sit ibi appellum suum versus predictos Johannem, Walterum, Johannem et Nicholaum inde prosecutura si voluerit. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Wyndlessouere xv. die Octobris anno regni nostri sexto. Quia appellum predictum in minori curia quam coram nobis vel alibi coram justiciariis nostris terminari non potest secundum legem et consuetudinem regni nostri. Fiat executio istius brevis si predicti Johannes, Walterus, Johannes et Nicholaus hoc petant et aliter non.

Et ideo de predicto appello nichil ulterius actum fuit.<sup>1</sup>

. . . . .

Undele.  
Mem. 8

Johannes Carectarius de Quenygborw de comitatu Leycestr' venit apud Undele die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Dunstani anno regni regis Edwardi ix. et ibi vendidit quoddam jumentum per quod captus erat per ballivum hundredi de Pokebrok et positus in ceppis apud Undele, qui postea evasit et fugit ad ecclesiam Sancti Petri de Undele et cognovit se esse latronem et furasse dictum jumentum in campis de Wendlingborw et quemdam vomerem in campis de Isslep coram H. de Tichemers et iiij. vill' propinquieribus videlicet Undele, Astone, Wermynstone et Stoke, et abjuravit regnum Anglie die Mercurii in festo Sancti Augustini anno supradicto et datus fuit sibi portus de Dover. Villata de Undele respondebit de evasione. Catalla sua iiij. s. vj. d. per particulos in argento monetato. Precium vomeris j. d. ob. Villata de Undele respondebit.

. . . . .

Trapstone.  
Mem. 9

Walterus Aylewy de Trapstone posuit se in ecclesia Sancti Jacobi de Trapstone die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xj. et cognovit se occidisse Robertum Aylewy de Trapstone coram H. de Tichemers et iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Trapstone, Tichemers, Thorp cum Achirche et Cloptone, et abjuravit regnum

<sup>1</sup> The appeals brought by Margaret against the three other persons are also given in full on this roll.

the wife of William Castle of Barnwell near Oundle, is making in your county court against John Blogwine of Oundle, Walter of Castor, John Papillon of Oundle, and Nicholas Aketoner of Oundle, for the death of the said William, formerly her husband, to come before our justices at Westminster on the morrow<sup>1</sup> of St. Martin with the attachments and all other adminicles touching that appeal. And tell Margaret that then and there she is to prosecute her appeal against the said John, Walter, John, and Nicholas, if she wishes. And have this writ there. Witness myself at Windsor the fifteenth day of October in the sixth year of our reign. For the said appeal cannot be terminated according to the law and custom of our realm in any lower court, but only before us or elsewhere before our justices. Let this writ be executed if the said John, Walter, John, and Nicholas request it, and not otherwise.

And hence nothing more was done in the said appeal.

. . . . .

Oundle

John Carter of Queeniborough in Leicestershire came to Oundle on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Dunstan in the ninth year of King Edward and there sold a certain mare, and for this he was arrested by the bailiff of the hundred of Polebrook and placed in the stocks at Oundle. Afterwards he escaped and fled to the church of St. Peter in Oundle and confessed before Henry of Titchmarsh and four neighbouring townships, to wit, Oundle, Ashton, Warmington, and Stoke Doyle, that he was a thief and that he had stolen the mare in the fields of Wellingborough and a ploughshare in the fields of Islip; and he abjured the realm of England on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. Augustine in the said year, and the port of Dover was assigned to him. The township of Oundle must answer for his escape [before he fled to the church].<sup>4</sup> His chattels were 3*s.* 6*d.* in various pieces of coined silver, and the ploughshare was worth 1½*d.*; for these the township of Oundle will account.

. . . . .

Thrapston

Walter Alway of Thrapston took refuge in the church of St. James in Thrapston on Monday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the eleventh year of King Edward, and confessed before Henry of Titchmarsh and four neighbouring townships, to wit, Thrapston, Titchmarsh, Thorpe Achurch, and Clapton, that he had killed

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 12, 1312.

<sup>2</sup> May 24, 1316.

<sup>3</sup> The township would be amerced at the eyre (Britton, fol. 17 b). <sup>4</sup> Feb. 27, 1318.

<sup>5</sup> May 26, 1316.



Anglie die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Benedicti anno predicto et datus est ei portus de Dovere. Catalla ejus ij. d. argenti et quadrans, item j. tunica precii iij. d., j. zona et j. bursa precii j. d. Villata de Trapstone respondebit.

. . . . .

Trapstone.  
Mem. 10

Hugo Lucas de Trapstone captus erat in campis de Parva Adintone cum uno equo rubeo videlicet Thome Howet de Ertlingborw per decenar' et constabular' de eadem die Sabbati circa horam vespertinam prox' post festum Sancti Botolfi Abbatis anno regni regis Edwardi xiiij., ductus apud Ertlingborw et ibi positus in ceppis, qui postea ductus erat apud Trapstone per predictos decenar' et constabular'<sup>1</sup> versus gaolam de Burgo S. Petri die Veneris prox' post festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno predicto, qui evasit ab eis et fugit ad ecclesiam Sancti Jacobi de Trapstone eodem die Veneris et recognovit se esse latronem et occidisse quemdam Johannem Ofbotelhul de Warwyk in campis de Westone Fawvel citra festum Sancti Laurencii anno xj. coram H. de Tichemers et iij. vill' propinq' videlicet Trapstone, Tichemers, Thorp cum Achirche et Cloptone, et abjuravit regnum Anglie die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancte Margarete Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi xv. et datus est sibi portus de Dovere. Predictae iij. vill' simul cum xij. juratoribus dicunt per sacramentum suum quod predictus Hugo Lucas dictum equum furavit. Villata de Ertlingborw de evasione respondebit.

. . . . .

Lollington.  
Mem 11

Willelmus de Grendon et Johannes Brid de Bernewelle juxta Undele posuerunt se in ecclesia Sancti Andree de Lollington die Mercurii in festo Sanctarum Perpetue et Felicitatis anno regni regis Edwardi xvij<sup>o</sup>, unde dictus Willelmus recognovit se occidisse quemdam Johannem de Belegegrave in comitatu Leyce', et dictus Johannes recognovit se occidisse quemdam Johannem de Rokyngham in campis de Boseyate coram H. de Tichemersh coronatore et iij. vill' propinq' videlicet Lollington, Hemington, Pokebrok et Shirninge, et abjura-

<sup>1</sup> Sic.



Robert Alway of Thrapston ; and he abjured the realm of England on Wednesday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Benedict in the said year, and the port of Dover was assigned to him. His chattels were two pence in silver and a farthing, also a coat worth three pence, a girdle and a purse worth a penny, for which the township of Thrapston will account.

. . . . .

Thrapston

Hugh Lucas of Thrapston was arrested in the fields of Little Addington with a bay horse belonging to Thomas Howett of Irthlingborough by the tithingmen and constable of [Irthlingborough] about the hour of vespers on Saturday <sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Botolph the Abbot in the fourteenth year of King Edward. He was taken to Irthlingborough, where he was placed in the stocks, and afterwards, on Friday <sup>3</sup> next after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the said year, he was brought by the said tithingmen and constable to Thrapston [on the way] to the gaol of Peterborough. But he escaped from them and fled to the church of St. James in Thrapston on the said Friday, and he confessed before Henry of Titchmarsh and four neighbouring townships, to wit, Thrapston, Titchmarsh, Thorpe Achurch, and Clapton, that he was a thief, and that he had killed a certain John Ofbotelhul of Warwick in the fields of Weston Favell before the feast of St. Lawrence <sup>4</sup> in the eleventh year [of Edward the Second]; and he abjured the realm of England on Friday <sup>5</sup> next before the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin in the fifteenth year of King Edward, and the port of Dover was assigned to him. The said four townships together with twelve jurors say on their oath that Hugh Lucas stole the said horse. The township of Irthlingborough must answer for the escape.

. . . . .

Luddington

William of Grendon and John Bird of Barnwell near Oundle took refuge in the church of St. Andrew in Luddington on Wednesday <sup>6</sup> the feast of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas in the seventeenth year of King Edward, and there, before Henry of Titchmarsh, the coroner, and four neighbouring townships, to wit, Luddington, Hemington, Polebrook, and Thurning, the said William confessed that he had killed a certain John of Belgrave in Leicestershire, and the said John confessed that he had killed a certain John of Rockingham in the fields of Bozeat; and they abjured the realm of England on Saturday <sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> March 22, 1318.      <sup>2</sup> June 20, 1321.      <sup>3</sup> June 26, 1321.      <sup>4</sup> Aug. 10, 1317.  
<sup>5</sup> July 17, 1321.      <sup>6</sup> March 7, 1324.      <sup>7</sup> March 10, 1324.

verunt regnum Anglie die Sabbati prox' ante festum S. Gregorii Pape anno predicto. Et datus est predicto Willelmo portus de Doveere et dicto Johanni portus de Portesmue. Catalla eorum j. cultellus et ij. baculi precii j. d. Villata de Lollington respondebit.

Undele

Ricardus Lubbe de castello de Eye de comitatu Suff' posuit se in capella Sancti Thome Martiris de Undele die Sabbati prox' ante festum Sancti Gregorii Pape anno regni regis Edwardi xvij<sup>o</sup> et recognovit se esse latronem de j. jumento quod furavit apud Touleslound in comitatu Hunt' et illud duxit apud Undele in foro coram H. de Tichemersh et iiij. vill' propinq' videlicet Undele, Stoke, Benefeld et Ash-tone, et abjuravit regnum Anglie die Mercurii prox' sequente. Et datus est ei portus de Brystowe. Catalla ejus vj. d. de argento, j. zona, j. bursa et iiij. cultelli precii ij. d., precium jumenti ij. s. Villata de Undele respondebit.

Accidit apud Undele die Mercurii prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xx<sup>o</sup> quod quidam Johannes de Seint Liger miles moriebatur in personatu de Undele confessus et communicatus habens corpus infra diruptum et nullam habens plagam. Inquisicio inde facta coram Johanne de Ashtone et Henrico de Tichemersh coronatoribus per iiij. vill' propinquior' videlicet Undele, Stokes, Pilketone et Benifeld . . .

### [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1

#### HUNDREDUM DE GILDESBOROU. ROTULUS PRIMUS.

Watforde

Accidit apud Watforde die Mercurii in septimana Pentecostes anno regni regis Edwardi vicesimo nono quod quidam Ricardus Mundevile et Nicholaus frater ejus luserunt ad platiperam <sup>2</sup> et lapis dicti Ricardi

<sup>1</sup> Roll 107, twelve membranes, 21 Edw. I.-8 Edw. II., containing more than two hundred cases, most of them inquests similar to those on the preceding roll;

there are a few cases of exigent in the county court by the king's order, also some abjurations and appeals.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *platiper'*.

next before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the said year. The port of Dover was assigned to William, and the port of Portsmouth to John. Their chattels were one knife and two staves worth a penny, for which the township of Luddington will answer.

Oundle

Richard Lubbe of the castle of Eye in the county of Suffolk took refuge in the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr in Oundle on Saturday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the seventeenth year of King Edward, and confessed before Henry of Titchmarsh and four neighbouring townships, to wit, Oundle, Stoke Doyle, Benefield, and Ashton, that he was a thief, and had stolen a mare at Toseland in Huntingdonshire, and had taken it to the market of Oundle; and he abjured the realm of England on the following Wednesday. The port of Bristol was assigned to him. His chattels were sixpence in silver, a girdle, a purse, and three knives, worth two pence; the mare was worth two shillings; the township of Oundle will answer [for all of these].

It happened at Oundle on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the twentieth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that John of St. Leger, knight, died in the parsonage of Oundle, after having confessed and partaken of the communion; he had no wound, but the lower part of his body was ruptured. Inquest was made before John of Ashton and Henry of Titchmarsh, the coroners, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Oundle, Stoke Doyle, Pilton, and Benefield. [They say that John's horse fell and was fatally injured; John was thrown against the saddle, and hence he died on the following Tuesday. The horse's hide was worth two shillings and the saddle forty pence, for which the township of Oundle will answer.]

## [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

## HUNDRED OF GUILSBOROUGH. FIRST ROLL.

Watford

It happened at Watford on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> of Whit week in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward that Richard Mandeville and his brother Nicholas were playing quoits<sup>4</sup>, and in the course of the game

<sup>1</sup> March 10, 1324.<sup>2</sup> Aug. 20, 1326.<sup>3</sup> May 24, 1301.<sup>4</sup> Translation doubtful. Perhaps the re-

ference is to the game called "casting the stone," mentioned in Statute 12 Rich. II. c. 6.

in lusu cescidit<sup>1</sup> in capud dicti Nicholai unde recepit unam parvam plagam, et postea tertia die sequente idem Nicholaus cubuit dormiendo et cepit eum quidam morbus paraliticus de quo morbo recepit mortem. Et moriebatur die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno predicto. Inquisicio inde facta coram J. de Buk' per iiij. vill' propinquiores videlicet Bukeby, Watforde, Creke et Wynewyke, que dicunt per sacramentum suum ut supra. Et dicunt quod idem Nicholaus non fuit mortuus pro predicto icto<sup>2</sup> set pro predicto morbo et quod dictus Ricardus pro timore fugiit ad ecclesiam Sancti Petri de Watforde. Catalla ejus unum flagellum precii ob. Villata de Watforde respondebit.

Abjuracio

Idem Ricardus venit coram J. de Buk' et dictis iiij. villatis die Sabbati in vigilia Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno predicto et cognovit se esse latronem et furasse unam supertunicam de blewetto apud Bereubi precii xvij. d. et abjuravit regnum Anglie et datus erat portus de Dover. Catalla ejus superius apreciantur, et preter hoc j. caputium precii j. d., j. tunica precii j. d. Villata de Watforde respondebit.

. . . . .

Jelvertoft,  
Mem. 3

Accidit apud Jelvertoft die Sabati prox' ante festum Sancti Martini anno regni regis Edwardi v<sup>to</sup> quod quidam Willelmus de Wenlington capellanus parochialis de Jelvertoft misit Johannem clericum suum ad domum Johannis le Soutere ad [em]endam sibi candelam scilicet j. d. Et idem Johannes nullam sibi mittere voluit sine argento, unde predictus Willelmus capellanus irascebatur, cepit unum baculum et ivit ad domum predicti Johannis et burgavit ostium super eum et percussit eum Johannem in capite de eodem baculo a parte ante ita quod cerebrum emanavit et statim moriebatur. Et statim fugiit ad ecclesiam de Jelvertoft. Juliana filia Willelmi Craunford de Jelvertoft primo invenit eum. Plegii ejus Henricus de Pydington de Jelvertoft et Willelmus de Craunford de eadem. Inquisicio inde facta coram J. de Buk' per iiij. vill' propinquiores videlicet Jelvertoft, Creke, Wynewyke et Lillebourne, que dicunt per sacramentum suum ut supradictum est et quod neminem sciunt culpabilem de morte dicti Johannis nisi dictum Willelmum de Wenlington. Qui venit coram predicto coronatore et cognovit se occidisse predictum Johannem unde

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

Richard's stone fell upon Nicholas's head, inflicting a slight wound. On the third day following this, as Nicholas lay asleep, he had a stroke of paralysis, of which he died on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the said year. Inquest was made before J. of Buck[ingham]<sup>2</sup> by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Buckby, Watford, Crick, and Winwick. They say on their oath as above, and that Nicholas did not die of the said blow, but of the said illness, and that Richard out of fear fled to the church of St. Peter in Watford. In chattels he had a flail worth a halfpenny, for which the township of Watford will account.

The said Richard came before J. of Buck[ingham] and the said four townships on Saturday<sup>3</sup> the eve of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the said year, and confessed that he was a thief, and that he had stolen a surcoat of blue cloth, worth eighteen pence, at Barby; and he abjured the realm of England, the port of Dover being assigned to him. His chattels are appraised above; and he also had a cap worth a penny, and a coat worth a penny, for which the township of Watford will account.

. . . . .

Yelvertoft

It happened at Yelvertoft on Saturday<sup>4</sup> next before Martinmas in the fifth year of King Edward that a certain William of Wellington, parish chaplain of Yelvertoft, sent John, his clerk, to John Cobbler's house to buy a candle for him for a penny. But John [Cobbler] would not send it to him without the money, wherefore William became enraged, and, taking a stick, he went to John's house, and, knocking<sup>5</sup> in the door upon him, he struck John in the front part of the head with the said stick, so that his brains flowed forth and he died forthwith. And [William] fled at once to the church at Yelvertoft. Juliana, daughter of William Cranford of Yelvertoft, first found [John]; her pledges were Henry of Piddington and William of Cranford, both of Yelvertoft. Inquest was made before J. of Buck[ingham] by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Yelvertoft, Crick, Winwick, and Lilbourne. They say on their oath as is aforesaid, and that they know no one guilty of John's death except the said William of Wellington. And he came before the said coroner and confessed that he had killed the said John; therefore he abjured the realm of England in the presence of the said four townships congregated [for this purpose].

<sup>1</sup> June 8, 1301.

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps Buckby.      <sup>3</sup> June 10, 1301.

<sup>4</sup> Nov. 6, 1311.

<sup>5</sup> See the Glossary, s.v. 'burgare.'



abjuravit regnum Anglie congregatis iiij. villatis supradictis. Et  
datus est ei portus de Dovore. . . .

. . . . .

Bernak.  
Mem. 7<sup>1</sup>

Accidit apud Bernak die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Mathei  
Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi viij. quod quidam Johannes Pistor  
de Pilesgate moriebatur in domo sua in Pilesgate, confessus fuit et  
communicatus et sepultus sine visu coronatoris, quo die venit ibidem  
R. de Veer coronator domini regis in comitatu Norhampt' et dissPELLIRI<sup>2</sup>  
fecit corpus dicti Johannis et invenit unam plagam in capite dicti  
Johannis quadam hachia<sup>3</sup> ut videbatur. Inquisicio inde facta coram  
dicto R. de Veer per iiij. vill' propinquoires videlicet Bernak, Pilesgate,  
Waltone et Badington. . . .

. . . . .

Mem. 9

Ad comitatum Norham' tentum die Jovis in festo Sancti Botulphi  
anno regni regis Edwardi xxxij. venit breve domini regis in hec  
verba.

Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie, dominus Hibernie et dux Aquit-  
tanie vicecomiti Norham' et coronatoribus suis ejusdem comitatus  
salutem. Quia quibusdam certis de causis certiorari volumus super  
recordo et processu cujusdam inquisicionis per vos in comitatu  
Norham' nuper facte de morte Andree Pese de Brockhole qui per  
gravem morbum quo fuerat vexatus moriebatur ut dicitur, vobis  
precipimus quod recordum et processum ejusdem inquisicionis nobis  
distincte et aperte sub sigillis vestris sine dilacione mittatis et hoc  
breve. Teste me ipso apud Banstede xxvij. die Maii anno regni nostri  
xxxij.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> The membrane is headed; 'Adhuc de Hundredo de Nassburg'. Rotulus iiij.'

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *quodam hach'*.

And the port of Dover was assigned to him. [His chattels and the stick are appraised; Yelvertoft will account for them.]

. . . . .

Barnack

It happened at Barnack on Friday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle in the eighth year of King Edward that John Baker of Pilsgate died in his house at Pilsgate, having confessed and partaken of the communion; and he was buried without view of the coroner. And on the same day R. de Vere, the king's coroner in Northamptonshire, came there and caused John's body to be disinterred, and he found a wound on John's head, which seemingly had been made with an axe. Inquest was made before the said R. de Vere by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Barnack, Pilsgate, Walton, and Bainton. [They say that John was beating his wife Emma, and she raised the hue. Her brother came, and, with her assent, mortally wounded John with an axe, which was worth a penny. Emma and her brother were arrested and placed in charge of the bailiffs of the abbot of Peterborough.]

. . . . .

At the county court of Northampton held on Thursday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Botolph in the thirty-third year of King Edward, there came the king's writ in these words:—

Edward by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to the sheriff of Northampton and to his coroners of that county greeting. Since for certain causes we desire to be certified concerning the record and process of a certain inquest recently made by you in the county of Northampton regarding the death of Andrew Pease of Brockhall who, so it is said, died of a serious illness with which he had been afflicted, we order you to send us without delay the record and process of that inquest in distinct and clear form and under your seals, together with this writ. Witness myself at Banstead on the twenty-eighth day of May in the thirty-third year of our reign.

. . . . . ; .

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 20, 1314.

<sup>2</sup> June 17, 1305.

Mem. 10 d.

## ADHUC DE HUNDREDO DE WYMERSLE.

Appellum

**Appellum Angnetis que fuit uxor Walteri Gilberd de Grendon' de morte dicti Walteri viri sui.**

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis prox' post festum Nativitatis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi xxxij<sup>o</sup> Angnes que fuit uxor Walteri Gilberd de Grendon' venit et appellat Robertum filium Ricardi le Walckere de Grendon' de morte predicti Walteri quondam viri sui, et invenit plegios de proseguendo Galfridus <sup>1</sup> Lovekyn de Grendon', Galfridus <sup>1</sup> Gilbert de eadem, in hec verba.

Appellum

Anneys qe fu la femme Walter Gilberd de Grendone appele Rob' le fiz Ric' le Walckere de Grendone de la mort Walter Gilberd sun barone, qe il [vint] <sup>2</sup> felonessement cum felone en assaut purpense le Samedi procheyn apres la feste de la Trinite lan del regne le rey Edward qe hore est qe deu le gard trente second a heure de terce en le schamps de Esseby Dary entre Westone vers le west e Grendone vers le est, e assaut fit al avant dit Walter sun barone de un espe forby qe home apele broche, dount lammel fut de fer e de asser e la maunche de coudre frette de seye e le pomel de latone, la longure de cele broche xxiiij. pouz de homme, la leure iij. pouz de homme, e ferit la <sup>1</sup> avant dit Walter sun barone desuth le paule destre jekes al quer, e li fit une playe de quele playe il morust memes le Samedy avant dit e a heure de vespere entre les bras la avant dit Anneys sa femme. Memes cele Anneys sitost cum ele apersust qe sun barone Walter avant nome fu mort frechement leva la mene <sup>3</sup> sur celi Roberd cum sur felone, e ele suist a les quatre viles prochains epuz a coroner, de coroner jekes a counte. E ce est ele prest de sure vers celi Robert cum vers felone per quant qe ceste court agard qe feme sure devera.

Comitatu <sup>4</sup> Norht' die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Dionisii anno regni regis Edwardi xxxij<sup>o</sup> Angnes que fuit uxor Walteri Gilberd de Grendon' venit et prosecuta est appellum suum versus Robertum filium Ricardi le Walckere de Grendon' de morte predicti Walteri viri sui, qui primo exactus est et non venit.

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Edwardi xxxij<sup>o</sup> predicta Angnes venit et pro-

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*<sup>2</sup> The verb is omitted.<sup>3</sup> Cf. 'menee des corns et de bouches,' in Britton, fol. 20.<sup>4</sup> MS. *com*'.

HUNDRED OF WYMERSLEY (*continued*).

The appeal of Agnes, formerly the wife of Walter Gilbert of Grendon, concerning the death of the said Walter, her husband.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next after the Nativity of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the thirty-second year of King Edward, Agnes, formerly the wife of Walter Gilbert of Grendon, comes and appeals Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, for the death of the said Walter, formerly her husband, in the following words; and she finds pledges to prosecute [her appeal, namely] Geoffrey Lovekin and Geoffrey Gilbert, both of Grendon.

Agnes, formerly the wife of Walter Gilbert of Grendon, appeals Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, for the death of Walter Gilbert, her husband, for that, at the hour of terce on Saturday<sup>2</sup> next after Trinity Sunday in the thirty-second year of King Edward, who now reigns (God guard him), in the fields of Ashby Davy, between Whiston on the west and Grendon on the east, [Robert came] feloniously and as a felon, with premeditated assault, and assaulted the said Walter, her husband, with a burnished sword, called a broach, of which the blade was of iron and steel, the handle of hazel fretted with silk, and the pommel of brass (the length of the sword was twenty-four inches, the width three inches); and he struck the said Walter, her husband, under the right shoulder unto the heart, inflicting a wound of which he died on the same Saturday aforesaid, at the hour of vespers, in the arms of the said Agnes, his wife. And as soon as she saw that her husband, the said Walter, was dead, she at once raised the hue against Robert, as against a felon, and she made suit to the four neighbouring townships, and then to the coroner, and from the coroner to the county court. And she is ready to prosecute the said Robert as a felon, in such wise as the court considers that a woman ought to prosecute.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Denis in the thirty-second year of King Edward, Agnes, formerly the wife of Walter Gilbert of Grendon, came and prosecuted her appeal against Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, for the death of the said Walter, her husband; and Robert was exacted for the first time, but did not appear.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of All Saints in the thirty-second year of King Edward, the said

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 10, 1304.<sup>2</sup> 9 A.M., May 30, 1304.<sup>3</sup> Oct. 8, 1304.<sup>4</sup> Nov. 5, 1304.

secuta est appellum suum versus Robertum le Walckere de Grendon' de morte predicti Walteri viri sui, qui secundo exactus est et non venit.

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Andree Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> predicta Angnes venit et prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Robertum le Walckere de Grendon' de morte predicti Walteri viri sui,<sup>1</sup> qui tercio exactus est.<sup>1</sup> Et venit breve domini regis in hec verba.

Breve

Edwardus dei gracia, etc. vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod appellum quod Angnes que fuit uxor Walteri Gilbert de Grendon' facit in comitatu tuo versus Robertum fil' Ricardi le Walckere de Grendon' de morte predicti Walteri quondam viri sui venire facias coram nobis in Octabis<sup>2</sup> Sancti Hillarii ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia cum atachiamenis et omnibus aliis adminiculis appellum illud tangentibus. Et dic prefate Angneti quod tunc sit ibi appellum suum versus predictum Robertum inde prosecutura si voluerit. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Brustwyk' xxj. die Novembris anno regni regis Edwardi xxxiiij<sup>o</sup>. Quia appellum predictum in minori curia quam coram justiciariis nostris terminari non potest per legem et consuetudinem regni nostri. Fiat executio istius brevis si predictus Robertus hoc petat et aliter non.

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis in crastino Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> venit breve domini regis in hec verba.

Breve

Edwardus dei gracia, etc. vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Cum nuper tibi preceperimus quod appellum quod Angnes . . .<sup>3</sup> ac tu appello predicto coram nobis misso retornasses quod dixisti prefate Angneti quod esset ibi ad eundem terminum predictum appellum suum prosecutura si voluisset: Que quidem Angnes ad prefatum terminum coram nobis venit et predictus Robertus non venit: Et in eodem appello continetur quod predictus Robertus exactus fuit de comitatu in comitatum usque ad tercium comitatum tentum apud Norht' die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Andree Apostoli ultimo preterito:<sup>4</sup> Et super hoc breve nostrum tibi venit ad predictum appellum coram nobis ad prefatum terminum amovendum, ita quod ad exigendum predictum Robertum ad eundem tercium comitatum occasione predicti brevis nostri tibi inde directi non fuit ulterius processum prout per retorum vestrum ad prefatum terminum factum accepimus manifeste: Tibi precipimus quod allocat[is] comitatibus in quibus predictus

<sup>1-1</sup> These words are struck out in the roll.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Oct'.

<sup>3</sup> Recites the substance of the preceding writ.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.



Agnes came and prosecuted her appeal against Robert Walker of Grendon for the death of her husband Walter; he was exacted the second time, but did not appear.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in the thirty-third year of King Edward, Agnes came and prosecuted her appeal against Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, for the death of her husband Walter; and the following writ of the king was received.

Edward, by the grace of God, etc., to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. We order you to cause the appeal which Agnes, formerly the wife of Walter Gilbert of Grendon, is making in your county court against Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, for the death of the said Walter, formerly her husband, to come before us on the octaves of Hilary, wherever in England we may then be, with the attachments and all other adminicles touching that appeal. And tell Agnes that then and there she is to prosecute her appeal against the said Robert, if she wishes. And have this writ there. Witness myself at Burstwick the twenty-first day of November in the thirty-third year of King Edward. For the said appeal, according to the law and custom of our realm, cannot be terminated in a lower court, but only before our justices. Let this writ be executed if the said Robert request it, and not otherwise.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>2</sup> the morrow of St. Matthias the Apostle in the thirty-third year of King Edward the following writ of the king was received.

Edward by the grace of God, etc., to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. Whereas we recently ordered you to cause the appeal of Agnes [against Robert to come before us, etc.], and in answer to the writ removing the appeal before us, you returned that you told Agnes that she was to prosecute her appeal there at the said term, if she wished. The said Agnes did appear before us at that term, but the said Robert did not appear. And, according to the contents of the appeal, the said Robert was exacted from county court to county court, up to the third<sup>3</sup> court held at Northampton on Thursday next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle last past, when our writ came to you removing the said appeal before us at the said term. Wherefore at that third county court, by reason of our writ sent to you, no further steps were taken [to exact Robert], as we have clearly perceived from the return made by you at the said term. We [now] order that, the [two] exigents in the county courts being allowed to stand, you pro-

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 3, 1304.

<sup>2</sup> Feb. 25, 1305.

<sup>3</sup> The third from the first exigent.

Robertus exactus fuit ad exigendum predictum Robertum de comitatu in comitatum procedas quousque secundum legem et consuetudinem regni nostri utlagetur si non comparuerit. Et si comparuerit tunc cum capias et salvo in prisa nostra custodias, ita quod habeas corpus ejus coram nobis a die Pasche in unum mensem ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia ad respondendum prefate Angneti de morte predicta. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste R. le Brabazone apud Westmonasterium viij. die Febr' anno regni regis Edwardi xxxiiij<sup>o</sup>.

Ad eundem comitatum predicta Angnes prosecuta est appellum suum de morte predicti Walteri quondam viri sui versus predictum Robertum qui non venit. Ideo iij<sup>o</sup> exactus est.

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis in festo Anunciacionis Beate Marie predicta Angnes prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Robertum qui manuecaptus est per Jacobum le Criour.

Ad comitatum Norht' die Jovis prox' ante festum S. Marci Ewangeliste anno regni regis Edwardi xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> predicta Angnes prosecuta est appellum suum versus predictum Robertum filium Ricardi le Walekere de Grendon' qui non venit. Ideo per consideracionem et judicium tocius comitatus utlagatus est.

Utlagacio

## [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1

BASSINGBURN.<sup>2</sup>

HUNDREDUM DE HOKESLOWE.

Tyndene

Accidit apud Tyndene die Sabbati prox' post festum Nativitatis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi xv<sup>o</sup> quod quidam Gilbertus Biestoun de Tyndene moritur<sup>2</sup> in domo sua propria confessus et communicatus habens quandam plagam in fronte cum quodam balstaf ut videtur. Inquisicio inde facta coram H. de Tychemershe per iiij. villatas propinquiores videlicet Tyndene, Adyntone majorem cum Adyntone minori, Irtliburg' et Burtone. . . .

<sup>1</sup> Roll 109, ten membranes, 14-17 Edw. II.; most of the inquests belong to the year 15 Edw. II., and were made 'per iiij. vill' propinq'; some were made 'per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis.'

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> On membrane 1 there are eight more inquests by four vills before Henry of Titchmarsh (one is before John of Ashton); five of them are entered under the hundred of Huxloe, though some of the 'neighbouring' vills are in the hundred of Polebrook;

ceed to exact the said Robert from county court to county court, until, according to the law and custom of our realm, he be outlawed, if he should not appear. And if he should appear, then arrest him and safely hold him in our prison, so that you may have his body before us one month after Easter, wherever in England we may then be, to answer to the said Agnes for the said death. And have this writ there. Witness Roger Brabazon at Westminster on the eighth day of February in the thirty-third year of King Edward.

At that same county court the said Agnes prosecuted her appeal against the said Robert for the death of Walter, formerly her husband. Robert did not appear; therefore he was exacted the third time.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>1</sup> the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary, the said Agnes prosecuted her appeal against the said Robert, who was mainprised by James Crier.

At the county court of Northampton on Thursday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the thirty-third year of King Edward, Agnes prosecuted her appeal against the said Robert, son of Richard Walker of Grendon, who did not appear. Therefore, by the award and judgment of the whole county court, he was outlawed.

## [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

### BASSINGBOURNE.<sup>3</sup>

#### HUNDRED OF HUXLOE.

It happened at Finedon on Saturday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the fifteenth year of King Edward that a certain Gilbert Beeston of Finedon died in his own house, after having confessed and partaken of the communion, and he had a wound on the forehead, made, as it seems, by a certain balstaff.<sup>5</sup> Inquest was made before Henry of Titchmarsh by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Finedon, Great Addington with Little Addington, Irthlingborough, and Burton. [They say that he was slain by unknown robbers; they had no chattels; the balstaff was worth a penny, for which the vill of Finedon will answer.]

<sup>1</sup> March 25, 1305.

<sup>2</sup> April 22, 1305.

<sup>3</sup> Presumably this heading refers to Humphrey of Bassingbourne, sheriff of

Northamptonshire in 15 Edw. II., who is mentioned in several of the entries.

<sup>4</sup> Sept. 12, 1321.

<sup>5</sup> A quarter-staff.

Mem. 4

## HUNDREDUM DE GELDESBORU.

Buckeby

Quedam mulier pauper et mendica inventa fuit apud Bockeby<sup>1</sup> mortua die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Augustini anno xiiij. habens gulam cesam unde statim obiit. Alicia uxor Michaelis Derlinge primo eam invenit que<sup>2</sup> atachiata [est]<sup>2</sup> per pleg' Johannis Frebern et Johannis Bercar'. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram Simone de Keylmershe coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de iiij. villatis videlicet Watforde, Westhaddone, Morkote et Buckeby, qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod die Mercurii proxima preterita Michael Derlinge de Bukeby<sup>3</sup> hospitabat<sup>4</sup> quendam virum mendicum cum una muliere quorum nomina ignorantur ante solem occasuum<sup>5</sup> in quadam domo in curia sua. Et noctanter predictus vir mendicus cidit gulam predictae mulieris unde statim obiit, et post illud factum posuit se in fugam nescitur quo. Requisiti si aliquis alius esset auxilians vel procurans ad illud factum dicunt quod non. Plegii Michaelis Derlinge pro sua ospitacione Ricardus Gamel et Walterus filius Johannis. Precium cultelli j. d. Villata de Buckeby respondebit.

. . . . .

Cold-  
esscheby

Rogerus de Lalleforde inventus fuit occisus apud Coldesscheby die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Ambrosii anno regni regis Edwardi xv<sup>o</sup> habens quendam<sup>6</sup> plagam in capite cum uno gladio unde mortem recepit. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram Simon de Keylemersche coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis videlicet Welleforde, Gildesburghe, Stavesby,<sup>7</sup> Asscheby et Thirneby,<sup>8</sup> qui dicunt . . . . Requisiti<sup>9</sup> de catallis predictorum Johannis [et] Roberti malefactorum, set nichil dicere sciunt quia istud homicidium factum fuit in comitatu Rotel'. Et post illud factum Johannes et Robertus fugerunt nescitur quo. Precium gladii vj. d. unde villata de Coldesscheby respondebit in itinere.

Cold-  
esscheby

Johannes filius Simonis Roberd de Coldesscheby constabularius<sup>10</sup> inventus fuit occisus apud Coldesscheby die Sabati in crastino Sancti

the other three cases are entered under the heading 'Hundredum de Pokebroke,' i.e. Polebrook.

<sup>2-2</sup> MS. *atach.* <sup>3</sup> *Sic.* <sup>4</sup> MS. *hospit'*.

<sup>5</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>7</sup> Navesby.

<sup>8</sup> There is another case on this membrane with five vills instead of four.

<sup>9</sup> MS. *Requis'*.

<sup>10</sup> *Sic.*

## HUNDRED OF GUILSBOROUGH.

Buckby

A certain poor beggar-woman was found dead at Buckby on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Augustine in the fourteenth year [of King Edward]; her throat had been cut, and so she had died forthwith. Alice, wife of Michael Darling, who first found her, was attached on pledge of John Freeborn and John Shepherd. Inquest was taken before Simon of Kelmarsh, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Watford, West Haddon, Murcott, and Buckby. They say on their oath that on the preceding Wednesday before sunset, Michael Darling of Buckby sheltered two beggars, a man and a woman whose names are unknown, in a certain house in his yard; and during the night the man cut the woman's throat, and she died forthwith; after committing the act, he fled to some place unknown. Being asked if any other person aided or abetted the act, they say, No. The pledges of Michael Darling for having given them shelter: Richard Gamel and Walter, son of John.<sup>2</sup> The knife was worth a penny, for which the township of Buckby will account.

Cold Ashby

Roger of Lilford was found killed at Cold Ashby, on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Ambrose in the fifteenth year of King Edward, and he had a certain wound on his head, made by a sword, whereof he died. Inquest was taken before Simon of Kelmarsh, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Welford, Guilsborough, Naseby, Ashby, and Thornby. They say [that Roger quarrelled with two men in a tavern at Bisbrooke, and they wounded him. He was brought to Cold Ashby, where he died.] The [jurors] were asked regarding the chattels of the said John and Robert, the evil-doers, but they could say nothing [regarding them] because the slaying was done in the county of Rutland; and after committing the act, John and Robert fled to some unknown place. The sword was worth six pence, for which the township of Cold Ashby will account in the eyre.

Cold Ashby

John, son of Simon Robert of Cold Ashby, the constable, was found slain at Cold Ashby on Saturday<sup>4</sup> the morrow of St. Gregory

<sup>1</sup> May 28, 1321.<sup>2</sup> As to the responsibility of a person for harbouring strangers, see Bracton, fol. 124 b,137 b; Britton, fol. 19 b; Stubbs, *Sel. Charters*, 145, 151, 362.<sup>3</sup> April 1, 1322.<sup>4</sup> March 13, 1322.



Gregorii anno regni regis Edward xv. habens quandam plagam per medium corpus cum una lancia unde mortem recepit. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram Simone de Keylemersche coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis videlicet Welleforde, Stavesby,<sup>1</sup> Gildesburghe, Essecheby cum Thernaby, qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod die Jovis proxima preterita Ricardus filius Willelmi le Clerke de Creke et Johannes filius Ricardi de Essecheby fuerunt electi ad serviendum domino regi contra Scotos apud Norht' et viando venerunt apud Essecheby et invenerunt dictum Johannem qui eos elegit, ita quod lis mota est inter eos. Et tunc dictus Johannes fugit et eum secuti sunt usque ad atrium Walteri filii Ade et ibi Ricardus filius Willelmi le Clerke de Creke eum percussit cum una lancia per medium corpus unde mortem recepit ut supra. Et post illud factum dicti Ricardus et Johannes filius Ricardi de Coldesscheby posuerunt se in fugam ad ecclesiam de Essecheby, et statim venerunt homines electi de Norht' versus regem et sumpserunt eos vi et armis extra ecclesiam ad serviendum domino regi. Dictus Johannes filius Simonis Roberd vixit per duos dies sequentes, confessus communicatus moriebatur. Predicti vero Ricardus et Johannes nulla habuerunt catalla.

. . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Mem. 10

#### HUNDREDUM DE WYMERSLE.

. . . . .

Wottone

Unus predictorum latronum qui se vocat Johannem de Dichforde fugiit ad ecclesiam de Wottone et posuit se in eadem pro feloniam predicta, et eodem die Mercurii coram predicto Ricardo Luvel coronatore et coram predictis quatuor villatis de predicta feloniam cognovit se esse culpabilem et regnum Anglie ibidem abjuravit et habuit portum Dovorice. Catalla ejus unus gladius, j. cultellus et j. courtepi appreciantur ad xvij. d. Villata de Wottone respondebit.

Colintre

Die Veneris prox' sequente predictus Johannes de Dichforde inventus fuit in campis de Colintre decolatus. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram R. Luvel coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis videlicet Colintre cum Middeltone, Cortenhalle, Wottone et Throp, qui dicunt quod predictus Johannes die Mercurii prox' preterito<sup>3</sup> apud Wottone coram coronatore regnum Anglie abjuravit et eodem die

<sup>1</sup> Navesby.

<sup>2</sup> There are four more inquests on this

membrane by the oath of twelve [men] and four vills before. Simon of Kelmarsh. <sup>3</sup> Sic.

in the fifteenth year of King Edward, and he had a wound through the body, made by a lance, whereof he died. Inquest was taken before Simon of Kelmarsh, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Welford, Naseby, Guilsborough, Ashby with Thornby. They say on their oath that on the preceding Thursday, Richard, son of William Clerk of Crick, and John, son of Richard of Ashby, were enlisted to serve the king against the Scots at Northampton, and on their way [to that place], they came to Ashby, where they found the said John, who had enlisted them. A quarrel arose among them; John then fled, and they pursued him to the hall of Walter, son of Adam, where Richard, son of William Clerk of Crick, ran a lance through his body and killed him, as [is stated] above. And after doing this, the said Richard and John, son of Richard of Cold Ashby, took refuge in the church of Ashby; and forthwith the recruits of Northampton who were on their way to the king came and took them by force and arms from the church, to make them serve the king. The said John, son of Simon Robert, lived during the two following days, and [then], after confessing and receiving the communion, he died. The said Richard and John had no chattels.

. . . . .

## HUNDRED OF WYMERSLEY.

. . . . .

Wootton

One of the said robbers,<sup>1</sup> called John of Ditchford, fled to the church of Wootton and took refuge there, by reason of the said felony, and on the said Wednesday<sup>2</sup> he confessed before Richard Lovel, the coroner, and before the said four townships that he was guilty of the said felony; and he there abjured the realm of England, the port of Dover being assigned to him. His chattels, a sword, a knife, and a courtepy,<sup>3</sup> were appraised at eighteen pence, for which the township of Wootton will account.

Collingtree

On the following Friday, the said John of Ditchford was found beheaded in the fields of Collingtree. Inquest was taken before Richard Lovel, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Collingtree with Middleton,<sup>4</sup> Courteenhall, Wootton, and Rothorpe. They say that on the preceding Wednesday the said John abjured the realm of England before the coroner at Wootton, and on

<sup>1</sup> They had robbed and killed a man.

<sup>2</sup> March 24, 1322.

<sup>3</sup> A short cloak of coarse cloth.

<sup>4</sup> Middleton-Malzor, or Milton.

regiam stratam et warentum <sup>1</sup> sancte ecclesie videlicet crucem in campis de Colintre reliquit <sup>2</sup> versus silvam fugiendo. Uthesium erat super ipsum levatum et per villatam de Wottone et alios prosecutus fuit quousque fugiendo erat decolatus. Capud ejus per quatuor villatas ad castrum domini regis Norht' deferebatur per preceptum dicti coronatoris.

. . . . .

Thenforde

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Jurdan de Merschtone inventus fuit in domo sua apud Thenforde occisus die Dominica prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xv<sup>o</sup> habens plagam in vertice capitis de uno baculo ut videtur. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram R. Luvel coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis, qui dicunt quod die Dominica prox' preterita orta fuit contencio apud Thenforde inter predictum Thomam Jurdan et Johannem de Cornubia tunc messorum de Chacombe in regia strata ita quod dictus Johannes dictum Thomam in capite de uno baculo quod dicitur Kentischestaf percussit in vertice et fugiendo et fecit ei plagam usque ad cerebrum unde die Veneris sequente confessus et communicatus moriebatur. Et dicunt quod idem Johannes statim fugiit quo nesciunt. Et dicunt quod catalla ejus sunt nulla. Quesitum est de vi, precepto et auxilio et de receptamento ipsius felonis et dicunt quod neminem inde sciunt culpabilem. Item queritur de presentibus, et sunt nulli. Humfredus de Bassingburne tunc vicecomes Norht' habet inde preceptum. Quatuor villate, Merschtone et Throp Mundevile, Faringho et Warkeworthe eodem modo dicunt et presentant.<sup>4</sup>

Middelstone

Quidam homo ignotus inventus fuit apud Middelstone in una domo occisus die Veneris prox' post festum Anunciacionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xv<sup>o</sup> habens plagam in capite juxta auriculam sinistram de uno baculo ut creditur. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram R. Luvel coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis videlicet Middelstone, Merschtone, Warkeworthe et Cha-

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *reliquid*.

<sup>3</sup> This and the following cases on mem. 10 are under the heading 'Hundredum de Sutton'.

<sup>4</sup> The preceding case on this membrane ends thus: 'quatuor villate Wappenham, Siresham, Astwelle, Faucote et Slapstone eodem modo presentant.'

the same day he abandoned the king's highway and the warrant of holy church, to wit, the cross, and fled over the fields of Collingtree toward the woods.<sup>1</sup> Hue was raised against him, and he was pursued by the township of Wootton and others, until he was beheaded while still fleeing. His head was carried by the four townships to the king's castle at Northampton by order of the said coroner.

. . . . .

Thenford

Thomas Jordan of Marston was found slain in his house at Thenford on Sunday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the fifteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, and he had a wound on the crown of his head, which seemingly was made with a stick. Inquest was taken before Richard Lovel, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships. They say that on the preceding Sunday a quarrel arose in the king's highway at Thenford between the said Thomas Jordan and John of Cornwall, the then hayward of Chacombe, and John struck Thomas upon the crown of the head with a stick called a Kentish staff, while [Thomas] was fleeing, inflicting a wound [which extended] to the brain, and of which he died on the following Friday, after having confessed and partaken of the communion. And they say that John fled forthwith, whither they know not. They also say that he had no chattels. They were asked concerning the force, precept, aid, and harbouring<sup>3</sup> of the said felon, and they say that they know no one guilty thereof. Also they were asked if any [other] persons were present, and [they say that] there were none. Humphrey of Bassingbourne, the then sheriff of Northampton, has been ordered [to arrest the felon]. Four townships, Marston, Thorpe Mandeville, Farthinghoe, and Warkworth, say and present the same.<sup>4</sup>

Middleton<sup>5</sup>

A certain man, who is unknown, was found slain in a house at Middleton on Friday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary in the fifteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward; and he had a wound on his left ear, made by a staff, so it is believed. Inquest was taken before Richard Lovel, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Middleton, Mars-

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 37. After taking the oath of abjuration at the gate of the churchyard, the culprit was to begin his journey to the port with a wooden cross in his hands, barefooted, ungirt, bareheaded, and clothed only in a coat (Britton, fol. 25 b; cf. *Statutes of the Realm*, i. 59, 250).

<sup>2</sup> Aug. 16, 1321.

<sup>3</sup> In other words, they were asked whether anyone was an accessory before or after the fact.

<sup>4</sup> They agree with the jury.

<sup>5</sup> Middleton-Malzor, or Milton.

<sup>6</sup> March 26, 1322.

combe, qui dicunt quod die Mercurii prox' preterita duo homines mendicantes caritatis<sup>1</sup> intuitu ospitabantur ad domum Walteri Prentiz et noctanter<sup>2</sup> unus illorum aliumulneravit modo predicto unde tertia die tunc sequente moriebatur. Et dicunt quod predictus felo predictum interfectum de pannis suis depredavit et statim noctanter cum illis fugiit quo nesciunt. Catalla ejus nulla. Et queritur si predictus Robertus Prentiz aliquo modo sit suspectus de morte predicta. Dicunt quod non. Quatuor villate predictae eodem modo dicunt et presentant. Predictus tamen Robertus manueaptus per Radulphum Bernard, Johannem le Turnour, Johannem Coke et Johannem le Bonde.

Rodestone

Sarra la Wodeward inventa fuit mortua in una domo prostrata apud Rodestone die Sabbati in vigilia Pasche anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xv° non habens plagam. Margeria Flouterc primo invenit eam. Plegii ejus Johannes Alby et Ricardus Rote. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram R. Luvel coronatore per sacramentum xij. et de quatuor villatis videlicet Rodestone, Brackele, Hales et Helmedene, Faucote et Astwelle, qui dicunt quod predicta Sarra ospitata fuit in una domo debili et ruinoso et die Dominica prox' preterita domus illa noctanter cecidit super eam per infortunium et statim moriebatur. Et dicunt quod non aliquis de morte sua culpabilis quocumque modo. Ligna et lapides prostrate appreciantur ad xij. d. Rodeston respondebit.

. . . . .

### [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>3</sup>]

. . . . .

Mem. 1

Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie, dominus Hibernie et dux Aquitanie vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod de novo exigi facias Nicholaum Duffyn, Matillidem de Dreytone, Johannem de Langeleye, Willelmum Tolowe, Johannem de Grauncestre et Johannem de Benteleghe de comitatu in comitatum quousque predicti Nicholaus, Johannes, Willelmus, Johannes et Johannes secundum legem et consuetudinem regni nostri utlagentur et predicta Matillis wayvietur si non comparue-

<sup>1</sup> MS. *caritat'*.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Bracton, fol. 137 b: 'constitutum est ne quis extraneum hospitetur nisi de clara die.'

<sup>3</sup> Roll 110, six membranes, 16-17 Ed-

ward II. Mem. 1 contains royal writs concerning outlawry; mem. 2, inquests by four vills; mem. 3, inquests concerning persons who had died in prison; mem. 4-6, appeals of approvers.



ton, Warkworth, and Chacombe. They say that on the preceding Wednesday two beggar-men were sheltered for the sake of charity in the house of [Robert] Prentice, and during the night one of them wounded the other in the manner aforesaid; and thereof he died on the third following day. They also say that the said felon robbed the dead man of his clothes, and forthwith, during the night, fled with them, whither they know not. He had no chattels. Being asked whether the said Robert Prentice is in any way suspected of the said death, they say, No. The four townships aforesaid say and present the same. Nevertheless, Robert was mainprised by Ralph Bernard, John Turner, John Coke, and John Bond.

Radstone

Sarah Woodward was found dead in a ruined house at Radstone on Saturday<sup>1</sup> the eve of Easter in the fifteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, and she had no wound. Margery Flouter, who first found her, produced pledges: John Alby and Richard Rote. Inquest was taken before Richard Lovel, the coroner, by the oath of twelve [men] and four townships, to wit, Radstone, Brackley, Halse and Helmdon, Falcott and Astwell.<sup>2</sup> They say that the said Sarah was lodged in a frail and dilapidated house, and on the preceding Sunday it fell in upon her by misadventure, and she died forthwith. They also say that no one was guilty of her death in any way. The fallen wood and stones are appraised at twelve pence, for which Radstone will account.

. . . . .

## [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Edward by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. We command you to cause Nicholas Duffin, Matilda of Drayton, John of Langley, William Tolowe, John of Grantchester, and John of Bentley, to be exacted anew from county court to county court until the said Nicholas, John, William, John, and John are outlawed according to the law and custom of our realm, and until the said Matilda is waived,<sup>3</sup> if

<sup>1</sup> April 10, 1322.

<sup>2</sup> Astwell and Falcott form one township.

<sup>3</sup> A woman cannot be outlawed, because she is not in a tithing or in the law, but

she may be waived, which is equivalent to outlawry (Britton, fol. 20; Bracton, fol. 125 b).

rint. Et si comparuerint tunc eos capias et salvo in prisona nostra custodias, ita quod habeas corpora eorum coram nobis in Octabis Sancti Hillarii ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia ad satisfaciendum nobis de redempcione sua occasione cujusdam transgressionis vi et armis et contra pacem nostram Johanni de Heyham per prefatos Nicholaum et alios facte, prout per quandam juratam in curia nostra coram nobis inde captam convictum est. Et unde tu ipse nobis alias retornasti quod predicti Nicholaus et alii non sunt inventi in balliva tua nec aliquid habent per quod possunt attachiari. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste H. le Scrop' apud Eboracum xxiiij. die Junii anno regni nostri xvj.

Ego Johannes de Sancto Mauro vicecomes Norht' respondeo quod ad proximum comitatum post recepcionem hujus brevis tentum die Jovis prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvij. Nicholaus Duffyn et alii in brevi isto nominati primo exacti fuerunt et non comparuerunt. Ad proximum comitatum sequentem tentum ibidem die Jovis prox' post festum Exaltacionis Sancte Crucis anno supradicto iidem Nicholaus et alii in brevi isto nominati secundo exacti fuerunt et non comparuerunt.<sup>1</sup> Ad proximum comitatum sequentem tentum ibidem die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Dionysii anno supradicto iidem Nicholaus et alii in brevi isto nominati tercio exacti fuerunt et non comparuerunt. Ad proximum comitatum sequentem tentum ibidem die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Leonardi anno supradicto iidem Nicholaus et alii in brevi isto nominati quarto exacti fuerunt et non comparuerunt set manucapti fuerunt per Willelmum de Rode essendi ad quintum comitatum qui tentus fuit ibidem die Jovis in festo Concepcionis Beate Marie anno supradicto, quo die predicti Nicholaus et alii in isto brevi nominati quinto exacti fuerunt. Et Nicholaus Duppy<sup>2</sup> Matillis de Draytone, Johannes de Langeleye et Johannes de Grauncestre non comparuerunt propter quod iidem Nicholaus Duffyn, Johannes de Langeleye et Johannes de Grauncestre utlagati sunt et predicta Matillis wayviata est. Et predicti Willelmus Tolowe et Johannes de Benteleghe protulerunt breve domini regis ad supersedendum de ipsis ulterius exigendis ad aliquem comitatum occasione predicta, quod quidem breve huic rotulo consutum.

<sup>3</sup> Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie, dominus Hibernie et dux Aquitanie vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Cum nuper tibi precepimus quod exigi faceres Willelmum Tolowe et Johannem de Benteleghe . . . .<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> This writ is sewn to the roll.

<sup>4</sup> Recites the substance of the preceding writ.

they should not appear. And if they should appear, arrest them and hold them safely in our prison, so that you may have their bodies before us on the octaves of Hilary, wherever in England we may then be, to satisfy us concerning their ransom for a certain trespass committed by the said Nicholas and the others by force and arms and against our peace against John of Heigham, of which they were convicted by a jury in our court held before us; and whereof you at another time returned that the said Nicholas and the others could not be found in your bailiwick, and had nothing by which they could be attached. And have this writ there. Witness H. Scrope at York on the twenty-fourth day of June in the sixteenth year of our reign.<sup>1</sup>

I, John Seymour, sheriff of Northampton, answer that at the next county court after the reception of this writ, held on Thursday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, Nicholas Duffin and the others named in the writ were exacted for the first time, and did not appear. At the next county court held [at Northampton] on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next after Holy-Cross Day in the said year, Nicholas and the others named in this writ were exacted for the second time, and did not appear. At the next county court held there on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Denis in the said year, Nicholas and the others named in this writ were exacted for the third time, and did not appear. At the next county court held there on Thursday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of St. Leonard in the said year Nicholas and the others named in this writ were exacted for the fourth time, and did not appear, but they were mainprised by William of Rode to be at the fifth county court, which was held there on Thursday<sup>6</sup> the feast of the Conception of Blessed Mary in the said year; and on that day the said Nicholas and the others named in the writ were exacted for the fifth time. And Nicholas Duffin, Matilda of Drayton, John of Langley, and John of Grantchester did not appear; therefore the said Nicholas Duffin, John of Langley, and John of Grantchester were outlawed, and the said Matilda was waived. And William Tolowe and John of Bentley brought a writ of the king to desist from exacting them further at any county court on the aforesaid charge, which writ is sewn to this roll.

Edward by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. Whereas we recently ordered you to cause William Tolowe and John of Bentley

<sup>1</sup> 1323.<sup>2</sup> Aug. 18, 1323.<sup>4</sup> Oct. 13, 1323.<sup>5</sup> Nov. 10, 1323.<sup>3</sup> Sept. 15, 1323.<sup>6</sup> Dec. 8, 1323.

Ac iidem Willelmus et Johannes de Benteleghe postmodum venerunt in curia nostra coram nobis et finem fecerunt nobiscum de redemptione sua occasione predicta. Tibi precipimus quod de exigendo predictos Willelmum Tolowe et Johannem de Benteleghe ad aliquem comitatum tuum ulterius occasione predicta omnino supersedeas. Teste J. de Stonore apud Notingham xvij. die Novembris anno regni nostri decimo septimo.

FYNCHAM.

. . . . .

Obitus castri  
Norht'.  
Mem. 3

Willelmus Cocus de Suthelmham qui captus fuit apud Baddeby cum quodam pullano ibidem furato obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Dominica in festo Sancti Petri Advincula anno regni regis Edwardi sextodecimo. Visus fuit per Johannem le Waydour et Walterum de Pateshulle coronatores ville Norht' infra libertatem ejusdem ville. Inquisicio capta fuit per sacramentum xij., qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod predictus Willelmus per famem, seitim<sup>1</sup> et miseriam moriebatur in predicta prisona. Predictus pullanus appreciatus est ad ij. s. Johannes de Seymor de Herdwyke tunc vicecomes et constabularius castri predicti respondebit.

. . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Obitus castri

Johannes le Smale qui captus fuit apud Stokebruere pro burgaria domus Roberti Golde de Stokebruere obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Georgii<sup>3</sup> Pape anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvj. Visus fuit per J. le Waydour et W. de Pateshulle coronatores ville Norht' habens quandam plagam in sinistro oculo. Inquisicio inde capta per sacramentum xij., qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Johannes in capcione sua fecit resistenciam constabular' et franciplegiis villate de Stokebruere et se attachiari ad pacem non permisit quousque quidam ignotus de villata predicta de quadam furca ferrea ipsum Johannem percussit in oculo sinistro et facit<sup>4</sup> ei plagam de latitudine dimidii pollicis et de profunditate usque ad os cerebri, de qua quidem plaga predictus Johannes moriebatur sine alicujus felonia.

Obitus castri

Robertus de Rysshtone serviens Thome de Mounteneye in Ryssh-tone qui liberatus fuit prisone castri Norht' pro arriragiis compoti sui

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> Five inquests, similar to the preceding, concerning persons who died in the castle

of Northampton from hunger, cold, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4</sup> Sic.



to be exacted. . . . And the said William and John afterwards came into our court before us and made fine to us for their ransom from the charge aforesaid, we order you wholly to desist from exacting them further at any county court of yours by reason of that charge. Witness John of Stonor at Nottingham on the eighteenth day of November in the seventeenth year of our reign.<sup>1</sup>

FINCHAM.

. . . . .

William Cook of South Elmham, who had been arrested at Badby with a certain colt which he had stolen there [at Badby], died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Sunday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Peter's Chains in the sixteenth year of King Edward; and he was viewed by John Waydour and Walter of Pattishall, coroners of the town of Northampton within the liberty of that town. Inquest<sup>3</sup> was taken by the oath of twelve [men], who say on their oath that William died in the said prison of hunger, thirst, and privation. The colt was appraised at three shillings, for which John Seymour of Hardwick, the then sheriff and constable of the said castle, will account.

. . . . .

John Small, who had been arrested at Stoke Bruern for the burglary at the house of Robert Gold of Stoke Bruern, died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Monday<sup>4</sup> next before the feast of St. [Gregory] the Pope in the sixteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward. He was viewed by J. Waydour and W. of Pattishall, coroners of the town of Northampton, and he had a wound in the left eye. Inquest was taken by the oath of twelve [men], who say on their oath that, when the said John was arrested, he resisted the constable and frankpledges of the township of Stoke Bruern, and would not allow himself to be attached to the peace, until a certain unknown man of that township struck him in the left eye with an iron fork, and gave him a wound half an inch wide, and in depth penetrating to the brainpan, of which wound the said John died without the felony of anyone.

Robert of Rushton, servant of Thomas of Montenay in Rushton, who had been placed in the prison of the castle of Northampton for

<sup>1</sup> 1323.

<sup>2</sup> Aug. 1, 1322.

<sup>3</sup> It was the duty of the coroner to hold

an inquest on a person dying in prison (Britton, ff. 18, 32; Fleta, fol. 39).

<sup>4</sup> March 7, 1323.



obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Dominica prox' ante festum Anunciationis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvj. . . .

Obitus castri      Johannes Wagge, qui captus fuit apud Rysshtone pro eo quod ipse abjuraverat regnum Anglie coram Simone de Keylemersche coronatore domini regis in comitatu Norht' et rediit sine warento<sup>1</sup> de domino rege, obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Guthlaci Episcopi anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvj. . . .

Obitus castri      Johannes le Swon de Watford qui captus fuit pro burgaria celarii Eustachii de Burneby apud Watforde facta obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Lune in festo Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi decimo septimo. Visus fuit per Walterum de Pateshulle et Robertum le Rous coronatores domini regis infra libertatem ville Norht'. . . .

Obitus castri      Galfridus de Styvyntone capellanus qui indictatus fuit de incendio domorum Johannis de Asshtone apud Stanewygge et Knoston et ea occasione captus obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Martis prox' ante festum Sancti Laurencii Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvij. Visus fuit per J. le Waydour et W. de Pateshulle. . . .

Obitus castri      Thomas Philip' de Buckeby indictatus coram Johanne de Sancto Mauro vicecomite Norht' in turno suo de Gyldesborughe de fraccione camere Eustachii de Burneby apud Watford et [ea] occasione detentus obiit in prisona castri Norht' die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Laurencii Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvij. Visus fuit per J. le Waydour et Johannem le Burs' et W. de Pateshulle coronatores ville Norht' nullam habens plagam. Inquisicio inde capta

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

arrears in his account, died in that prison on Sunday<sup>1</sup> next before Lady Day in the sixteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward. [He was viewed by the above-mentioned two coroners. Twelve jurors say that he died of hunger, cold, and privation.]

John Wagg, who had been arrested at Rushton because, having abjured the realm of England before Simon of Kelmarsh, the king's coroner of Northamptonshire, he returned [to England] without the king's permission, died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Guthlac the Bishop in the sixteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward. [He was viewed by the above-mentioned two coroners. Twelve jurors say that he died a natural death.]

John Swan of Watford, who had been arrested for committing burglary at Watford in the cellar of Eustace of Burnby, died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Monday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. James the Apostle in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward; and he was viewed by Walter of Pattishall and Robert Russ, coroners of the king within the liberty of the town of Northampton. [Twelve jurors say that he died of hunger and the flux.<sup>4</sup>]

Geoffrey of Steventon, the chaplain, who had been indicted and arrested for setting fire to the houses of John of Ashton at Stanwick and Knuston, died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Tuesday<sup>5</sup> next before the feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward; and he was viewed by J. Waydour and Walter of Pattishall. [Twelve jurors say that he died of hunger and thirst.]

Thomas Philip of Buckby, who had been indicted before John Seymour, sheriff of Northampton, in his tourn of Guilsborough for breaking into the chamber of Eustace of Burnby at Watford, and had been imprisoned on that charge, died in the prison of the castle of Northampton on Saturday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward; and he was viewed by J. Waydour, John Burser, and Walter of Pattishall, coroners of the town of Northampton, and he had no

<sup>1</sup> March 20, 1323.

<sup>4</sup> *fluxus ventris*.

<sup>2</sup> April 18, 1323.

<sup>5</sup> Aug. 9, 1323.

<sup>3</sup> July 25, 1323.

<sup>6</sup> Aug. 13, 1323.

per sacramentum xij. fuit, qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod predictus Thomas per famem et sitim et per naturalem mortem moriebatur et per nullam aliam penam sibi factam.

Obitus castri Michel' le Smyth de Zeveldene, qui captus fuit apud Creke cum quodam equo furato qui commissus fuit penitencie<sup>1</sup> prisone domini regis per J. de Wylughby et socios suos justiciarios domini regis ad deliberacionem illam faciendam assignatos in ultima cessione sua apud castrum Norht' pro eo quod ipse noluit ponere se super patriam de bono et malo coram justiciariis predictis, obiit in prisona castri Norht'. . . .

Obitus castri Rogerus de Keston de Daylinton captus et in prisona castri Norht' detentus et per inditamentum captum coram J. de Sancto Mauro vicecomite Norht' in turno suo apud Gildesburghe de fraccione camere Eustachii de Burneby apud Watforde obiit in prisona castr Norht'. . . .

. . . . .

## [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

. . . . .

Mem. 12

ROTULUS JOHANNIS DE TUWE CORONATORIS DOMINI REGIS IN COMITATU NORH' INCIPIENT' DIE DOMINICA PROX' ANTE FESTUM S. GRIGORII<sup>3</sup> PAPE ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI TERCII A CONQUESTU SEXTO.

Idem<sup>4</sup> die Dominica prox' ante festum Sancti Grigorii Pape anno supradicto accidit apud Olthorpe quod Willelmus filius Willelmi Fers inventus fuit mortuus et fuit etatis quinque annorum. Et inde venerunt quatuor villate propinquiores videlicet Olthorpe, Herlesstone, Brymptone, Esthaddone cum quatuor hominibus et prepositis, qui dicunt quod predictus Willelmus per infortunium cecidit sub quodam muro unde recepit mortem die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti

<sup>1</sup> Reading doubtful; MS. *pñie*.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 111. twenty-five membranes, 6-10 Edw. III. containing besides inquests many

writs of outlawry and appeals of approvers.

<sup>3</sup> *Sic*.

<sup>4</sup> *Sic*.

wound. Inquest was taken by the oath of twelve [men], who say on their oath that Thomas died a natural death from hunger and thirst, and not from the infliction of any other punishment.

Michael Smith of Yelden died in the prison of the castle of Northampton. He had been arrested at Crick with a certain stolen horse, and, at their last session in that castle, J. of Willoughby and his colleagues, the king's justices assigned to make gaol delivery, had committed him to penance in the king's prison, because he would not put himself on the country for good and ill before the said justices. [He died on September 11, 1323, and was viewed by J. Waydour and W. of Pattishall. Twelve jurors say that his death was due to want of food and drink and to cold.]

Roger of Keston of Dallington, who had been arrested and detained in the prison of the castle of Northampton on an indictment made before J. Seymour, sheriff of Northampton, in his tourn at Guilsborough, for breaking into the chamber of Eustace of Burnby at Watford, died in the prison of that castle [on November 26, 1323. He was viewed by J. Burser and W. of Pattishall. Twelve jurors say that he died of hunger and thirst.]

[NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

ROLL OF JOHN OF TEW, CORONER OF THE KING IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, BEGINNING SUNDAY<sup>1</sup> NEXT BEFORE THE FEAST OF ST. GREGORY THE POPE IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD.

Also on Sunday next before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the said year, it happened at Althorp that William, son of William Furse, aged five years, was found dead. And then came four neighbouring townships, to wit, Althorp, Harlestone, Brampton, and East Haddon, with the four men and the reeves. And they say that the said William fell by mischance under a certain wall and thus came to his death on Friday next before the feast of St. Gregory the

<sup>1</sup> March 8, 1332.

Precium  
muri est  
j. d.<sup>2</sup>

Grigorii Pape. Et super hoc capta inquisicio per xij. juratores, qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Willelmus filius Willelmi Fers currit in gardino sub quodam muro et predictus murus super predictum Willelmum cecidit unde recepit mortem, non confessus neque communicatus quia non fuit nisi de etate quinque annorum, set postea vixit <sup>1</sup> per unam horam diei et loquebatur. Precium ejusdem muri j. d. Inventor ejusdem [Willelmi] Ricardus Horslee. Eciam dicunt quod hutesium fuit levatum sicut solebat. Et ibi venit Willelmus Fers pater predicti Willelmi et Alicia uxor ejusdem et testificatum fuit quod Anglicanus fuit, etc. Et inventor invenit plegios videlicet Robertum le Chapman, Simonem Knyth.

<sup>3</sup> Nicholaus Chanceux ballivus hundredi predicti quia non venit ad faciendum returnum suum nec ad predictum infortunium in misericordia.<sup>3</sup>

. . . . .

Hundr' de  
Fall'

Accidit apud Berughby die Mercurii prox' ante festum Pentecostes anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu sexto quod Matill[is] filia Ricardi de Dunchurche inventa fuit mortua. Et inde capta inquisicio die et anno supradicto coram J. de Tuwe coronatore per sacramentum . . .<sup>4</sup> juratorum, qui dicunt. . . . Preceptum est villate de Berughby quod obstipuebit <sup>5</sup> predictam foveam sub pena xx. s. et nichilominus in misericordia.

Berughby.

iiij. homines  
et preposi-  
tum<sup>6</sup>

Willelmus by Yelane  
Willelmus filius Ricardi  
Johannes de Waltone  
Willelmus Selyf'  
Johannes Adam

} p[resentant] in omnibus sicut in-  
quisicio.

Brandestone.

Johannes Roger  
Henricus Malcher  
Rogerus Broun  
Johannes Wymare'  
Robertus Vyot

} p' in omnibus sicut inquisicio.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *vexit*. <sup>2-2</sup> Added by a later hand.  
<sup>3-3</sup> Added by a later hand; above

*Chanceux* are the words *in m̃ia*.  
<sup>4</sup> Twelve names. <sup>5</sup> *Sic*.

*Sic*.



Pope. And thereupon inquest was taken by twelve jurors, who say on their oath that William, son of William Furse, was running in a garden under a certain wall, and the wall fell upon him, and thus he came to his death. He did not confess nor receive the communion, for he was only five years of age; but he lived for one hour afterwards and spoke. The said wall was worth a penny. The finder of William was Richard Horsley. They also say that the hue was raised just as was customary. And William Furse, the father of the said William, and his wife Alice came there, and it was testified that [their son] was an Englishman, etc. The finder produced pledges, to wit, Robert Chapman and Simon Knight.

Nicholas Chancey, bailiff of the said hundred,<sup>1</sup> is in mercy because he did not come to make his return regarding the said misadventure.<sup>2</sup>

[Two inquests follow similar in form to the preceding. In both cases Englishry was proved by one from the father's side and one from the mother's.]

Hundred of  
Pawsley

It happened at Barby on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next before Pentecost in the sixth year of King Edward the Third that Maud, daughter of Richard of Dunchurch, was found dead. Inquest was taken on the said day of that year before John of Tew, the coroner, by the oath of [twelve] jurors, who say [that she was accidentally killed by falling into a ditch. The finder produced pledges. Englishry was proved.] The township of Barby was ordered to fill up the ditch on pain of twenty shillings, and nevertheless [the township] is in mercy.

Barby.

William Lane  
William, Richard's son  
John of Walton  
William Selfe  
John Adam

} present in all things in accordance  
with the inquest.

Braunston.

John Roger  
Henry Malcher  
Roger Brown  
John Wymark  
Robert Wyatt

} present in all things in accordance  
with the inquest.

<sup>1</sup> Newbottle-Grove.

<sup>2</sup> Translation doubtful.

<sup>3</sup> June 3, 1332.

The four  
men and  
the reeve

## Kyllesby.

|                           |   |                                 |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Nicholaus filius Thome    | } | p' in omnibus sicut inquisicio. |
| Rogerus de Blakesbe       |   |                                 |
| Henricus de Contessethorp |   |                                 |
| Willelmus Gordevill'      |   |                                 |
| Willelmus Cellig'         |   |                                 |

Assheby Leger non venit, ideo in misericordia.

. . . . .

Hundr' de  
Wym'

Accidit apud Parva<sup>1</sup> Houghtone quod Ricardus le Mulevard de Parva Houghtone inventus fuit mortuus die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Dunstani anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu sexto. Et inde capta inquisicio coram J. de Tuwe coronatore die et anno supradicto per sacramentum . . . juratorum, qui dicunt . . . Nullus inventor quia habuit jura ecclesiastica. Et statim post feloniam factam fugerunt nescitur quo. Precium arcus et sagitte vj. d., precium baculi ij. d. Dicunt eciam quod nemo est culpabilis de vi nec assensu.

Precium  
arma<sup>2</sup>  
viij. d.

iiij. homines  
et preposi-  
tum<sup>3</sup> de  
Houghtone

|                       |   |                                    |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Johannes Drews        | } | pres' sicut inquisicio in omnibus. |
| Willelmus le Gardener |   |                                    |
| Ricardus le Maister   |   |                                    |
| Johannes Leuwy        |   |                                    |
| Nicholaus Neubond     |   |                                    |

## Houghton Magna.

|                          |   |                                    |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Ricardus Mattheu         | } | pres' in omnibus sicut inquisicio. |
| Ricardus Dykeman         |   |                                    |
| Johannes le Gardener     |   |                                    |
| Johannes filius Willelmi |   |                                    |
| Johannes le Reve         |   |                                    |

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

## Kilsby.

|                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Nicholas, Thomas's son          | } | present in all things in accordance<br>with the inquest. |
| Roger of Blackesby <sup>1</sup> |   |  |
| Henry of Countesthorpe          |   |  |
| William of Gordeville           |   |  |
| William Sellick                 |   |  |

Ashby St. Ledger did not come, and therefore is in mercy.

[An inquest similar to the preceding follows. The names of the reeve and four men of three townships are given; their presentment agrees with the verdict of the inquest jury. The township of Stowe did not come, and therefore was amerced forty shillings.]

Hundred of  
Wymerley

It happened at Little Houghton that Richard Millward of Little Houghton was found dead on Saturday <sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Dunstan in the sixth year of King Edward the Third. Inquest was taken before John of Tew, the coroner, on the said day of that year by the oath of [twelve] jurors, who say [that Richard quarrelled with two men, and they killed him]. There was no finder, because he had the rites of the church.<sup>3</sup> And immediately after committing the felony, they fled to some unknown place. The bow and arrow were worth six pence, the staff two pence. [The jurors] also say that no one was guilty of aiding or abetting.

The four  
men and the  
reeve of  
[Little]  
Houghton

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| John Drews       | } | present in all things in accordance<br>with the inquest. |
| William Gardener |   |  |
| Richard Master   |   |  |
| John Leuwy       |   |  |
| Nicholas Newbond |   |  |

## Great Houghton.

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Richard Matthew     | } | present in all things in accordance<br>with the inquest. |
| Richard Dikeman     |   |  |
| John Gardener       |   |  |
| John, William's son |   |  |
| John Reeve          |   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Blakesley (?).

<sup>2</sup> May 23, 1332.

<sup>3</sup> No record of the finder of the body is

necessary, because the deceased survived long enough to receive the communion and to state who were the culprits.

## Cugenho.

|                      |   |                                    |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Johannes ad Portam   | } | pres' in omnibus sicut inquisicio. |
| Willelmus le Walshe  |   |                                    |
| Rogerus Everard      |   |                                    |
| Ricardus Randelf'    |   |                                    |
| Simon filius Ricardi |   |                                    |

## Pydington et Haclentune.

|                         |   |                                    |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Willelmus de Houghtone  | } | pres' in omnibus sicut inquisicio. |
| Thomas Hert             |   |                                    |
| Johannes Davy           |   |                                    |
| Johannes filius Walteri |   |                                    |
| Adam Sparwe             |   |                                    |

Hundr' de  
Toue'

Accidit apud Tiffeld die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Dunstani Episcopi anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu sexto quod quidam extraneus inventus fuit mortuus. Et inde capta inquisicio coram J. de Tuwe coronatore die et anno supradicto per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> jur', qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod de nomine mortis<sup>2</sup> ignorant et de nomine felonis ignorant. Et dicunt precise quod in illa placea ubi jacuit que vocatur le Hay in campis de Tyffel<sup>2</sup> non fuit occisus set abductus fuit ibi noctanter per quem ignorant habens sex plagas in capite ex utraque parte cum uno pollax ut aparet precii iij. d. et unam plagam in collo cum uno cultello usque ad cor. Precium cultelli ij. d. Johannes Gerry primo eum invenit, non male creditur.

## Tiffeld et Gaytone.

litjor  
homines  
et prep'

Willelmus Dwale.  
Ricardus de Thorp.  
Walterus Mayn.  
Willelmus le Wrighte.  
Rogerus Bedyn.

. . . . .

Omnes predicti<sup>3</sup> villate presentant in omnibus sicut inquisicio set dicunt quod villate predictis<sup>4</sup> plene non venerunt. Ideo in misericordia.

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.<sup>2</sup> Sic.<sup>3</sup> Sic.<sup>4</sup> Sic.

## Cogenhoe.

|                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| John at Gate         | } | present in all things in accordance<br>with the inquest. |
| William Walsh        |   |  |
| Roger Everard        |   |  |
| Richard Randolph     |   |  |
| Simon, Richard's son |   |  |

## Piddington and Hackleton.

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| William of Houghton | } | present in all things in accordance<br>with the inquest. |
| Thomas Hart         |   |  |
| John Davy           |   |  |
| John, Walter's son  |   |  |
| Adam Sparrow        |   |  |

Hundred of  
Towcester

It happened at Tiffield on Friday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Dunstan the Bishop in the sixth year of King Edward the Third that a certain stranger was found dead. Inquest was taken before John of Tew, the coroner, on the said day of that year by the oath of [twelve] jurors, who say on their oath that they do not know the name of the dead man, nor that of the felon. And they say positively that he was not killed in the fields of Tiffield in the place where he lay, which is called the Hay, but that he was brought there at night by some unknown person; and he had six wounds on both sides of the head, seemingly made with a pole-axe worth three pence, and a wound in the neck extending to the heart, made with a knife worth two pence. John Gerry first found him, but is not suspected.

## Tiffield and Gayton.

The four  
men and  
the reeve

William Duval.  
Richard of Thorpe.  
Walter Main.  
William Wright.  
Roger Bedin.

[Five names are given for each of the other three villis: Towcester, Cold Higham, and Pattishall.]

All the townships aforesaid present in all things in accordance with the inquest, but they say that the said townships did not come in full.<sup>2</sup> Therefore they are in mercy.

<sup>1</sup> May 15, 1332.

<sup>2</sup> This seems to mean that a full repre-

sentation of the townships did not come to the inquest.



Hund' Fall'

Accidit apud Everdene die Veneris in festo Apostolorum Philippi et Jacoby anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu sexto quod Adam Waundevylle inventus fuit mortuus, et inde capta inquisicio coram Willelmo de Valdon coronatore hospicii domini regis et J. Tuwe coronatore comitatus de morte predicti Ade per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> jur', qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Jovis prox' ante festum Apostolorum Philippi et Jacoby hora vesperarum in villa de Everdene quedam contencio mota fuit inter familiam hospicii domini regis et communitatem villate predictae in manerio abbatis de Bar', ita quod predicti<sup>2</sup> communitatis fugerunt plures ad ecclesiam. Et ibi venerunt predicti famil' regis usque ad murum cimiterii et unus de familia regis cujus nomen ignorant percussit predictum<sup>3</sup> Adam cum una sagitta sicut stetit in cymterio<sup>4</sup> sub costere sinistro usque ad cor unde statim obiit. Matill' Deye primo eum invenit. Plegii Galfridus in Angulo, Johannis<sup>4</sup> Lylye.

vj. d.

Et ibi venerunt iiij. propinquoires villate videlicet Everdone, Baddeby, Fall', Doddeforde et presentant<sup>5</sup> in omnibus sicut inquisicio. Precium arcus cum sagitta vj. d. Villata de Everdon respondet.

[NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.<sup>6</sup>]

Mem. 1

<sup>7</sup> Robertus Botevyleyn vicecomes Norht' Laurencio Strattone et Johanni Houghtone et sociis suis coronatoribus libertatis ville Norht' salutem. Mandatum domini regis in hec verba recepi.

Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*tum [*sic*],<sup>7</sup> came and presented.<sup>3</sup> MS. *predictus*.<sup>4</sup> *Sic.*<sup>6</sup> Roll 118, two membranes, 50 Edw. III.—<sup>5</sup> In the two preceding entries the four vills, 'de qualibet iiij. homines et preposi-

3 Rich. II.

<sup>7-7</sup> This is sewn to mem. 1.

[An inquest by eleven men follows, similar to that preceding. The jurors also say that all the townships did not come in full, and hence all are in mercy. Five men from each of three townships in the hundred of Cleley 'presentant in omnibus sicut inquisicio.' The next two entries are inquests made in the hundreds of Spellhoe and Guilsborough, similar in form to the following.]

Hundred of  
Fawsley

It happened at Everdon on Friday<sup>1</sup> the feast of the Apostles Philip and James in the sixth year of King Edward the Third that Adam Wandeville was found dead. Inquest was taken before William of Walden, coroner of the king's household,<sup>2</sup> and John of Tew, coroner of the county, concerning the death of the said Adam by the oath of [twelve] jurors. They say on their oath that on Thursday next before the feast of the Apostles Philip and James, at the hour of vespers, a dispute arose in the vill of Everdon between members of the king's household and the community of the said township in the manor of the abbot of Bernay,<sup>3</sup> so that many of the said community fled to the church. And the said retainers of the king went to the wall of the churchyard, and one of them, whose name is unknown, struck the said Adam with an arrow in the heart under the left rib, while Adam was standing in the churchyard, and killed him forthwith. Maud Dey, who first found him, produced pledges: Geoffrey Corner and John Lilly.

And four neighbouring townships, to wit, Everdon, Badby, Fawsley, and Dodford, came there, and presented in all things in accordance with the inquest. The bow and arrow were worth six pence, for which the township of Everdon will account.

. . . . .

### [NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.]

Robert Botevilein, sheriff of Northamptonshire, to Lawrence Stratton and John Houghton and their fellows, coroners of the liberty of the town of Northampton, greeting. I have received the following precept of the lord king.

Edward by the grace of God king of England and France and

<sup>1</sup> May 1, 1332.

<sup>2</sup> For the functions of the coroner of the king's household see Britton, fol. 2; Statutes, 28 Edw. I., c. 3, and 5 Edw. II.,

c. 27.

<sup>3</sup> 'Dicunt quod abbas de Berney in Normannia tenet manerium de Everdon' (*Testa de Nevill*, 37).

vicecomiti Norht' salutem. Precipimus tibi quod appellum quod Johanna que fuit uxor Henrici Lord de Norht' bocher facit in comitatu tuo versus Robertum Shepherd de Uptone de morte predicti Henrici quondam viri sui venire facias coram nobis in crastino Ascencionis Domini ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia cum attachiamentis et omnibus adminiculis appellum illud tangentibus et hoc sub pena viginti librarum nullatenus omittas. Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Westm' xv. die Maii anno regni nostri Anglie quinquagesimo regni vero nostri Francie tricesimo septimo.

Et ideo ex parte domini regis tibi mando quod mandatum istud in omnibus diligenter exequamini.<sup>7</sup>

. . . . .

Mem. 2

ROTULUS JOHANNIS SHROUESBURY, THOME SUTTON, THOME WAKELEYN ET JOHANNIS ATTEWELLE CORONATORUM DOMINI REGIS IN VILLA NORHAMPTON' DE OMNIBUS CASIBUS ET INFORTUNIIS, FELONIIS ET ALIIS IRROTULANDIS QUE IBIDEM ACCIDERUNT A DIE VENERIS PROX' ANTE FESTUM APOSTOLORUM SIMONIS ET JUDE ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI PRIMO, QUO DIE IPSI CORONATORES PREDICTI FUERUNT ELECTI ET CORAM TOTA VILLATA NORHAMPTON' JURATI TEMPORE JOHANNIS GEIDYNGTONE TUNC MAIORIS, SIMONIS DAVENTRE ET JOHANNIS PRENTYS BALLIVORUM, USQUE, ETC.

Felonia

Quidam Johannes Phelipot de Drayton Hales in comitatu Salop' posuit se in monasterium Sancti Andree Norhampton' die Veneris prox' post festum Sancte Lucie Virginis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi primo et eodem die in capella Sancte Marie monasterii predicti coram coronatoribus supradictis confessus fuit super sacramentum suum et cognovit se esse latronem eo quod die Mercurii prox' ante dictum festum Sancte Lucie Virginis apud Kirkeby in comitatu Warrewyche unum equum grey precii x. s. cujusdam ignoti furatus fuit. Et preteria<sup>1</sup> cognovit se felonice occidisse Johannem Pigger' pult' apud Hygate die Martis in vigilia Sancti Andree anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xlj<sup>o</sup>. Et requisitus si vellet regnum Anglie abjurare dicebat quod non adhuc usque ad quadragessimum diem. Quare predicti coronatores preceperunt ex parte

<sup>7</sup> See note 7-7 on p. 85.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

lord of Ireland to the sheriff of Northampton greeting. We order you to cause the appeal which Joan, formerly the wife of Henry Lord of Northampton, butcher, is making in your county against Robert Shepherd of Upton for the death of the said Henry, formerly her husband, to come before us on the morrow of Ascension Day, wherever in England we may then be, with all the attachments and evidences relating to that appeal; and do not neglect this on pain of twenty pounds. And have this writ there. Witness myself at Westminster on the fifteenth day of May in the fiftieth year of our reign in England, and the thirty-seventh of our reign in France.

And therefore, on behalf of the lord king, I order you diligently to execute this precept in all things.

. . . . .

ROLL OF JOHN SHREWSBURY, THOMAS SUTTON, THOMAS WAKELIN, AND JOHN ATWELL, THE KING'S CORONERS IN THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON, CONCERNING ALL ACCIDENTS, MISADVENTURES, FELONIES, AND OTHER THINGS HAPPENING THERE WHICH HAD TO BE ENROLLED, FROM FRIDAY<sup>1</sup> NEXT BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE APOSTLES SIMON AND JUDE IN THE FIRST YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND, ON WHICH DAY THE SAID CORONERS WERE ELECTED AND SWORN BEFORE THE WHOLE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON, JOHN GEDDINGTON BEING THEN MAYOR, AND SIMON DAVENTRY AND JOHN PRENTICE BAILIFFS, UP TO, ETC.

A certain John Philpot of Drayton-in-Hales in Shropshire took refuge in the monastery of St. Andrew in Northampton on Friday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin in the first year of King Richard the Second, and on the same day in the chapel of St. Mary, belonging to that monastery, he confessed on his oath and avowed before the said coroners that he was a thief, for that on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next before the said feast of St. Lucy he had stolen a grey horse worth ten shillings at Kirkby in Warwickshire, which belonged to some unknown person. Moreover, he confessed that he had feloniously slain John Pigger, poulterer, at Highgate on Tuesday<sup>4</sup> the eve of St. Andrew in the forty-first year of King Edward the Third. Being asked if he wished to abjure the realm of England, he said, Not until the fortieth day.<sup>5</sup> Therefore on behalf of the king the said coroners

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 23, 1377.

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 18, 1377.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 9, 1377.

<sup>4</sup> Nov. 29, 1367, the eve of St. Andrew, was Monday, not Tuesday.

<sup>5</sup> A felon is allowed to remain in

sanctuary forty days; if he remain there longer, he should not be ejected by force, but should be starved out. (Bracton, ff. 135 b, 136.) According to Britton, ff. 25, 26, felons may remain in sanctuary forty

domini regis ballivis quod eum ibidem facerent villatam salvo et secure custodire. Et dictus Johannes Phelipot interim a dicto monasterio evasit et fugit nescitur quo. Et nulla habuit catalla.

Felonia

Accidit apud Norhampton' die Lune prox' post festum Epiphanie Domini anno regni regis Ricardi secundi primo quod quidam Johannes Sheffield webstere inventus fuit mortuus et visus fuit a coronatoribus supradictis. Inquisicio inde capta eodem die coram predictis coronatoribus per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> jur', qui dicunt super sacramentum suum . . . . Et quod statim hoc facto dicti Ricardus et Johannes fugerunt nescitur quo noctanter nulla post se relinquentes bona aut catalla que sua forent. Istud indictamentum vacat hic quia plenarie liberatum fuit Willelmo Skipwith et sociis suis justiciariis predicti domini regis ad gaolam ville Norht' deliberandam assignatis anno regni ejusdem regis tercio coram quibus idem Ricardus quietus fuit.

[OXFORDSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

VILLA OXON'.

CASUS CORON' DE TEMPORE ADE DE SPALDINGE VILLE OXON'  
DE ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI XXV<sup>to</sup>.

Contigit die Sabbati in crastino Sancti Thome Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxv<sup>to</sup> quod quidam clericus nomine David de Trempehdwy obiit in hospicio suo ubi manebat versus portam orientalem Oxon' et eodem die visus fuit per Adam de Spaldinge coronatorem

<sup>1</sup> Eleven names.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 128, one membrane, 25-26 Edw. I., with the endorsement 'Rotulus Ade de Spaldynge nuper coronatoris ville Oxon', anno regni regis Edwardi tercii.' But the

roll belongs to the time of Edward I. See *Oxford City Documents*, ed. Rogers, 150, 174. The justices of gaol delivery mentioned in the roll are of the reign of Edward I.



ordered the bailiffs [of Northampton] to cause the town to guard him there safely and securely.<sup>1</sup> And during the interval [of forty days] the said John Philpot escaped from the said monastery, and fled to some unknown place. He had no chattels.

It happened at Northampton on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the Epiphany in the first year of King Richard the Second that a certain John Sheffield, webster, was found dead, and he was viewed by the coroners aforesaid. Inquest was taken on the same day before the said coroners by the oath of [eleven] jurors, who say on their oath [that Richard Waldgrave struck him with a dagger, and he died next day, after having received the rites of the church. They also say that John Challoner abetted the felony, and struck John Sheffield on the head 'usque ad le panne'<sup>3</sup> with an axe;] and that after doing this the said Richard and John fled forthwith at night to some unknown place, leaving behind them no goods or chattels belonging to them. This indictment is here void because it was fully delivered to William Skipwith and his fellows, the king's justices assigned to deliver the gaol of the town of Northampton, in the third year of the said king's reign, and before them the said Richard was acquitted.

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## [OXFORDSHIRE.]

### TOWN OF OXFORD.

PLEAS OF THE CROWN IN THE TIME OF ADAM SPALDING OF THE  
TOWN OF OXFORD IN THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF KING  
EDWARD.

It happened on Saturday<sup>4</sup> the morrow of St. Thomas the Apostle in the twenty-fifth year of King Edward that a certain clerk named David of Trempeclwy died in the hostel where he dwelt, near the Eastgate of Oxford, and on the same day he was viewed by Adam

days from the day of the coroner's coming to them; if they abide there longer, they shall be debarred from abjuration, and after the said forty days no one is to give them meat or drink, or have any communication with them. Anyone who then gives them food is the king's enemy (Fleta, fol. 45). Cf. Statute 9 Edw. II. c. 10; Matt. Paris, *Chron. Majora*, vi. 357.

<sup>1</sup> The town was to have the monastery watched to prevent the escape of the felon. (Cf. Britton, ff. 7, 25; Maitland, *Sel. Pl. of Crown*, p. 86, and *Pleas of Glouc.* p. 73.)

<sup>2</sup> Jan. 11, 1378.

<sup>3</sup> The skull or brain-pan. A marginal note states that Richard was acquitted before William Skipwith by the country.

<sup>4</sup> Dec. 22, 1296.

Nichil<sup>1</sup>

Oxon' et habuit unam plagam sub mamilla sinistra cum quodam longo cultello valde profundam. Inquisicio inde capta fuit eodem die coram coronatore predicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores scilicet Sancti Petri Orientalis, Beate Marie Virginis, Sancte Mildride et Omnium Sanctorum. Et omnes jur' in dicta inquisicione dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Dominica prox' post festum Sancti Nicholai anno predicto predictus David circa horam ignitegii duxit secum quandam meretricem nomine Christianam de Wyrecestre usque in vicum qui dicitur Scolestrete et intravit in unam scolarum. Et ibi supervenerunt quidam alii clerici quorum nomina ignorantur qui insidiabantur predicto David et insultum fecerunt in eum et sic in insultu illo vulneratus fuit per quod obiit die Sabbati supradicto, et sic vixit per xij. dies et habuit omnia jura ecclesiastica. Et nunquam postea potuit inquiri qui sunt culpabiles de morte ejus.

Michael  
mancipium  
de Bolehalle

Contigit die Lune prox' post festum Purificacionis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi xxv<sup>to</sup> quod Johannes Metescharp obiit mane in domo Radulphi le Cyrgien in parochia Sancti Aldati Oxon' et statim visus fuit per Adam de Spaldinge coronatorem Oxon' et habuit unam plagam in latere sinistro cum quadam minuta sagitta ejus plage latitudo erat dimidii pollicis et profunditas erat sex pollicium. Inquisicio inde capta fuit coram coronatore predicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores scilicet Sancti Aldati, Sancte Ebbe, Sancti Petri in Ballio et Sancti Martini. Et omnes jur' in illa inquisicione dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Sabbati in festo Purificacionis Beate Marie prox' precedente anno supradicto Michael mancipium de Bolehalle, Johannes de Skorf clericus, Willelmus Michel, Stephanus de Dyryghfeld mancipium et Maddocus de Belte clericus fuerunt in vico juxta ecclesiam Sancti Aldati circa horam ignitegii et insultaverunt omnes transeuntes per eos per quod hutesium levatum fuit. Et predictus Johannes Metescharp et alii audientes hutesium exierunt pro pace domini regis observanda et in proximo adventu eorum predictus Michael mancipium sagittavit dictum Johannem Metescharp in latere et fecit ei predictam plagam unde obiit die Lune predicto, set vixit per unum diem et per duas noctes et habuit omnia jura ecclesiastica. Et predicti Michael et Johannes de Skorf statim fugerunt ita quod attachiari non potuerunt nec inveniri ad attachiandum nec aliquid de bonis eorum potuit inveniri, set predicti Willelmus Michel, Stephanus et Maddocus attachiati fuerunt et imprisonati. Et die Sabbati prox' post festum

<sup>1</sup> This probably means that nothing could be ascertained concerning the felons.

Spalding, coroner of Oxford, and under the left breast he had a very deep wound, which had been made with a long knife. Inquest was taken on the said day before the said coroner by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mildred, and All Saints. All the jurors of that inquest say on their oath that about the hour of curfew on Sunday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Nicholas in the said year the said David took with him a certain harlot named Christiana of Worcester into the street called School Street, and entered one of the schools. And there he was met and assaulted by certain other clerks, whose names are unknown, who were lying in wait for him. During this assault he received a wound from which he died on the Saturday aforesaid, and thus he lived twelve days, and he had all the rites of the church. And never afterwards could it be ascertained who were guilty of his death.

It happened on the morning of Monday <sup>2</sup> next after Candlemas in the twenty-fifth year of King Edward that John Metescharp died at Ralph Surgeon's house in the parish of St. Aldate, Oxford, and he was viewed forthwith by Adam of Spalding, coroner of Oxford, and he had a wound in his left side half an inch wide and six inches deep, which had been made by a small arrow. Inquest was taken before the said coroner by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Aldate, St. Ebbe, St. Peter-le-Bailly, and St. Martin. And all the jurors of that inquest say on their oath that on Saturday <sup>3</sup> the feast of Candlemas last past in the said year Michael, manciple of Bolehall, John of Scarf clerk, William Mitchell, Stephen of Driffield manciple, and Madoc of Belty clerk, were in the street near the church of St. Aldate about the hour of curfew, and assaulted all persons passing by them. Therefore the hue was raised. And John Metescharp and others hearing the hue went forth to preserve the king's peace, and on their near approach the said Michael, the manciple, struck the said John Metescharp in the side with an arrow, and gave him the said wound of which he died on the said Monday, but he lived a day and two nights, and had all the rites of the church. And the said Michael and John of Scarf fled forthwith, so that they could not be found or attached, nor could any of their chattels be found. But William Mitchell, Stephen, and Madoc were attached and imprisoned.

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 9, 1296.<sup>2</sup> Feb. 4, 1297.<sup>3</sup> Feb. 2, 1297.

Sancti Gregorii Pape anno predicto coram H. de Brantestone et J. Neyrnuyt justiciariis domini regis ad gaolam Oxon' deliberandam assignatis deliberati fuerunt tanquam boni.<sup>1</sup>

Contigit die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Georgii Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi xxv<sup>to</sup> quod Johannes Laurence obiit in hospicio suo ubi manebat in parochia Sancti Petri in Ballio et eodem die visus fuit per coronatorem predictum et nullam habuit plagam set male verberatus fuit per totum corpus. Inquisicio inde capta fuit eodem die coram coronatore predicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores videlicet Sancti Petri in Ballio, Sancti Michaelis Borealis, Sancti Martini et Omnium Sanctorum. Et omnes jur' in illa inquisitione dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Dominica in Ramis Palmarum anno predicto quidam clericus nomine David de Northampton fuit sero in vico contra hospicium suum ubi manebat in parochia Sancti Michaelis Borealis de sub boreali muro ville et ivit dicendo preces et orationes suas. Et ibi venit dictus Johannes Laurence obvians ei et causa contencionis faciendo cum scapula sua depulsit dictum David semel et iterum, et dictus David rogavit eum ut permitteret ipsum in pace et sic intravit in hospicium suum. Et dictus Johannes statim accessit ad ostium dicti hospicii ubi dictus David intravit et percussit bis super ostium. Et dictus David exivit cum quodam baculo et percussit dictum Johannem super caput ita quod cecidit ad terram et verberavit eum cum dicto baculo per scapulas et dorsum et renes et per totum corpus unde obiit die Lune supradicto, et sic vixit per quindecim dies et habuit omnia jura ecclesiastica. Attamen interim predictus David summonitus fuit coram magistro Johanne de Bloyow tunc commissario cancellarii universitatis Oxon' et predictus Johannes Laurence similiter. Et per inquisitionem ibidem captam coram commissario predicto ambe partes adjudicate fuerunt ad prisonam. Et dum fuerunt in dicta prisona per consilium predicti commissarii facta fuit concordia inter partes predictas et per dictum commissarium ambo fuerunt deliberati a prisona. Et statim dictus David abiit a villa predicta ita quod nunquam postea fuit visus nec inventus in eadem villa nec aliquid de bonis ejus potuit inquiri nec inveniri.

David de  
Northampton

<sup>1</sup> For the same inquest taken in the presence of John de Osney, see *Oxford City Documents*, 150. Probably both coroners

were present at the inquest, and each entered the case in his roll; the two records differ as regards the details.



And on Saturday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope in the said year they were delivered as innocent before H. of Brandeston and J. Neirnuit, the king's justices assigned to deliver the gaol of Oxford.

It happened on Monday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. George the Martyr in the twenty-fifth year of King Edward that John Lawrence died in the hostel where he dwelt in the parish of St. Peter-le-Bailly, and on the same day he was viewed by the coroner aforesaid, and he had no wound, but his whole body had been badly beaten. Inquest was taken on the same day before the said coroner by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter-le-Bailly, St. Michael-in-the-North, St. Martin, and All Saints. And all the jurors of that inquest say on oath that on the evening of Palm Sunday<sup>3</sup> in the said year a certain clerk named David of Northampton was in the street opposite the hostel where he dwelt in the parish of St. Michael-in-the-North under the northern wall of the town, and he was walking along and saying his prayers and orisons. And thither came the said John Lawrence, who meeting [David] pushed him with his shoulder once and again for the sake of causing a quarrel. The said David asked him to leave him in peace, and then entered his hostel. John went forthwith to the door of the hostel which David had entered and rapped twice at the door. And David came forth with a certain staff and struck the said John upon the head, felling him to the ground, and beat him with the staff over the shoulders, back, loins, and head, so that he died on the said Monday; and thus he lived fifteen days, and he had all the rites of the church. Meanwhile, however, the said David was summoned before Master John of Bloyou, who was then the Chancellor's commissary of the University of Oxford; and likewise the said John Lawrence [was summoned]. And by an inquest held there before the said commissary both parties were sentenced to prison. While they were in prison, peace was made between the said parties through the commissary's intervention, and both of them were released from prison by the said commissary. And forthwith David left the town, and never afterwards was seen or found there; nor could any of his chattels be found or anything ascertained concerning them.

[Four inquests of 25 Edw. I. follow, together with one abjuration before the coroner.]

<sup>1</sup> March 16, 1297.

<sup>2</sup> April 22, 1297.

<sup>3</sup> April 7, 1297.



De anno  
xxvj<sup>to</sup>

Rogerus de  
Bream  
clericus,  
Henr' de  
Bream  
clericus

Contigit die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxvj<sup>to</sup> mane quod Thomas atte Chircheye de Yistele<sup>1</sup> obiit in domo Ricardi Pykard in parochia Sancti Petri in Oriente et statim visus fuit per coronatorem supradictum et habuit duas plagas mortales fere per medium corpus. Inquisicio inde capta fuit eodem die coram coronatore predicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores scilicet Sancti Petri Orientalis, Sancte Marie, Sancte Mildride et Omnium Sanctorum. Et omnes jur' in illa inquisicione dicunt super sacramentum suum quod dictus Thomas venit die Dominica prox' preecedente in alto vico ex opposito ecclesie Beate Marie Virginis volens ire versus Yistele<sup>1</sup> et ibi venit Rogerus de Bream clericus et percussit dictum Thomam cum quodam longo eultello fere usque ad eor, et Henricus de Bream clericus percussit eundem Thomam cum quodam gladio fere per medium corpus. De quibus plagis idem Thomas obiit predicto die Martis set habuit omnia jura ecclesiastica. Et predieti Rogerus et Henricus fugerunt ita quod propter maximam multitudinem aliorum clericorum armatorum tunc ibidem existeneium attachiari non potuerunt nec aliquid de bonis eorum potuit inveniri.

dorse

#### Adhuc de anno xxvj<sup>to</sup>. Villa Oxon'.

Edwardus  
de Hales

Contigit die Veneris prox' post festum Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxvj<sup>to</sup> sero quod Fulco Neyrnuyt clericus obiit in hospicio suo ubi manebat in parochia Sancte Mildride Virginis Oxon' et die Sabbati prox' sequente mane visus fuit per Adam de Spaldinge coronatorem et habuit unam plagam in oculo sinistro cum quadam minuta sagitta usque in cerebrum et sic fere per medium caput. Inquisicio inde capta fuit eodem die coram coronatore predicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores videlicet Sancte Mildride, Sancti Petri Orientalis, Beate Marie et Omnium Sanctorum. Et omnes jur' in illa inquisicione dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Lune in festo Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno predicto statim post horam nonam predictus Fulco et Willelmus Neyrnuyt eum multis aliis clericis et eorum manopiis<sup>2</sup> venerunt in alto vico inter ecclesiam Beate Marie et ecclesiam Omnium Sanctorum eum areubus et sagittis, gladiis et boleariis, fundis et lapidibus et aliis diversis armis et insultum fecerunt in omnes laicos quos attingere potuerunt et multos maleulneraverunt et domos et schoppas quorundam laicorum

<sup>1</sup> i.e. Yistele.

<sup>2</sup> Probably this should read *manoperariis* (cf. Brinckmeier, *Glossarium Diplomaticum*).

*cum*, s.v.); or perhaps the scribe intended to write *mancipiis*.

It happened on the morning of Tuesday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the twenty-sixth year of King Edward that Thomas Churchey of Ifley died in Richard Pickard's house in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, and he was viewed forthwith by the coroner aforesaid, and he had two mortal wounds almost through the body. Inquest was taken on that same day before the said coroner by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary, St. Mildred, and All Saints. And all the jurors of that inquest say on their oath that on the preceding Sunday the said Thomas came into the High Street opposite the church of St. Mary the Virgin on his way to Ifley, and Roger of Brecham clerk came there, and struck the said Thomas with a long knife almost to the heart; and Henry of Brecham clerk struck Thomas with a sword almost through the body. Of these wounds the said Thomas died on the Tuesday aforesaid, but he had all the rites of the church. And Roger and Henry fled, so that they could not be attached owing to the large number of other armed clerks then and there present, nor could any of their chattels be found.

**The twenty-sixth year (continued). Town of Oxford.**

It happened on the evening of Friday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias in the twenty-sixth year of King Edward that Fulk Neirnit clerk died in the hostel where he dwelt in the parish of St. Mildred the Virgin at Oxford; and on the morning of the following Saturday he was viewed by Adam of Spalding, coroner, and he had a wound in the left eye, made with a small arrow, which had penetrated to the brain and so almost through the head. Inquest was taken on the same day [Saturday] before the said coroner by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Mildred, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary, and All Saints. And all the jurors of that inquest say on their oath that just after the hour of none on Monday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the said year the said Fulk and William Neirnit with many other clerks and their servants came into the High Street between the church of St. Mary and the church of All Saints with bows and arrows, swords and bucklers, slings and stones, and various other weapons, and assaulted all laymen whom they could reach; they wounded many of these severely, and broke into the houses and

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 25, 1293.

<sup>2</sup> Feb. 28, 1293.

<sup>3</sup> 3 P.M., Feb. 24.

fregerunt et bona et catalla in eisdem inventa ceperunt et felonice asportaverunt contra pacem, per quod lutesium magnum levatum fuit ita quod plures laici supervenerunt ad perturbandum malefactores predictos. Et postquam predictus Fulco sagittaverat omnes sagittas suas tunc venit ad domum Edwardi de Hales et Basilie uxoris sue juxta ecclesiam Beate Marie Virginis et dictam domum viriliter insultavit cum aliis de societate sua qui volebant dictam domum intrasse et bona in eadem existencia depredasse. Set predictus Edwardus stans in quodam solario defendebat domum suam cum arcu suo et ut predictus Fulco respexit ultra targiam suam predictus Edwardus sagittavit eum in oculo sinistro per quod obiit die Veneris supradicto set habuit omnia jura ecclesiastica et vixit per quatuor dies.<sup>1</sup>

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## [OXFORDSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

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Mcm. 5

### HUNDREDUM DE BAMPTONE.

Foreforde

Inquisicio capta apud Burforde die Veneris prox' post festum Sancti Bartholomei Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum secundo coram Johanne Hardy coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato<sup>3</sup> de morte Isabelle uxoris Johannis Sherman super visum corporis sui per sacramentum . . .<sup>4</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod contigit apud Borforde die Jovis prox' post dictum festum Sancti Bartholomei hora prima quod dicta Isabella braciavit et cepit unam scalam et assendit super dictam scalam et voluit querere boscum super unum solarium supra quandam fornacem plenam aque calide. Et dicta Isabella defecit de pedibus suis super dictam scalam et cecidit in dicta fornace et sic fuit

Infortu-  
nium.  
Deodandum  
\* vii. s.  
viiij. d.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Edward was arrested, but escaped from prison, fled to sanctuary, and abjured the realm. (*Oxford City Documents*, 174.)

<sup>2</sup> Roll 132, thirteen membranes, 42 Edw. III.-7 Rich. II.

<sup>3</sup> *Assignato* in this Roll and in Roll 136 seems to mean that the coroner was nominated by the king, and not elected in the county court. Cf. *Rot. Claus.* i. 560.

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names. <sup>5-5</sup> Crossed out.

shops of certain laymen, seizing and carrying away the goods and chattels found therein feloniously and against the peace. Therefore a great hue was raised, so that many laymen came to disturb the said evil-doers. And after the said Fulk had shot all his arrows, he went to the house of Edward of Hales and Basilia, [Edward's] wife, near the church of St. Mary the Virgin, and vigorously assaulted the said house in company with others who wished to enter and steal the property contained therein. But the said Edward, standing in an upper chamber, defended his house with his bow, and as Fulk glanced over his target, Edward shot him in the left eye with an arrow, of which wound he died on the Friday aforesaid; but he had all the rites of the church, and lived four days.

[Two inquests concerning persons burned to death in conflagrations due to the ignition of straw on the floor near a bed. Another inquest concerning John Burel who was killed in a brawl with two clerks: one of them was acquitted by a jury before the justices of gaol delivery, the other was convicted before the same justices, and was handed over to the bishop of Lincoln, because he was a clerk.]

[OXFORDSHIRE.]

HUNDRED OF BAMPTON.

Burford

Inquest was taken at Burford on Friday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle in the second year of King Richard the Second before John Hardy, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of Isabel, John Sherman's wife, on view of her body, by the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that it happened at Burford at the hour of prime<sup>2</sup> on Thursday next after the said feast that Isabel, while engaged in brewing, took a ladder and mounted it in order to procure wood in an upper room above a boiler full of hot water. And her feet slipped from the ladder, and she fell into the boiler, and her whole body was scalded. In this condition

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 27, 1378.

<sup>2</sup> 6 A.M.

scaterizata per totum corpus. Et sic vixit langendo<sup>1</sup> usque ad horam vesperarum dicto die qua hora moriebatur set habuit jura ecclesiastica. Precium dicte fornacis vj. s. viij. d. Et quatuor wardmen ville predictae cum wardis suis inde similiter onerati, examinati et ad hoc jurati expresse concordant ad inquisicionem predictam.

## HUNDREDUM DE CHADELYNGTONE.

Chepyng  
Nortone,  
Over Nor-  
tone, Salte-  
ford et  
Cornewell

Felonia

Ric' Smythe  
de Chepyng  
Norton

\* ij. d.\*

Att'.<sup>s</sup>  
Joh' Walcot'  
Souter

Inquisicio capta apud Chepyng Nortone die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Augustini Episcopi anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum ij<sup>do</sup> coram Johanne Hardy coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Laurencii Walshe de Powesse-  
londe super visum corporis sui per sacramentum . . .<sup>2</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod contigit apud Chepyng Nortone die et anno supradictis videlicet in nocte ante galli cantum quod quidam Ricardus Smythe de Nortone predicta venit et obviavit dicto Laurencio in alta via regia cum cultello suo extracto et percussit eum in ventre usque ad cor unde statim obiit sine juribus ecclesiasticis, profunditatis<sup>3</sup> whneris xij. pollicium et latitud' ij. pollicium. Precium dicti cultelli ij. d., etc. Et dicunt quod dictus Ricardus nulla habuit catalla. Inventor dicti Laurencii interfecti Galfridus Walsheman et attach' per plegium Radulphi Pygot et Reginaldi Lovely. Et sic predictus Ricardus Smythe felonice interfecit predictum Laurencium. Et dicunt quod statim post dictam feloniam factam predictus Ricardus fugit, etc. Et dicunt quod Johannes Walcot' souter fuit ibidem adjuvans et consenciens ad dictam feloniam faciendam. Et dicunt quod dictus Johannes<sup>6</sup> Walcot' souter habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam v. s., etc. Et quatuor convillate predictae inde similiter onerate, examinate et ad hoc jurate expresse concordant ad inquisicionem predictam.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>4-1</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>5</sup> Walcott was attached.

<sup>6</sup> MS. *Johanne*.



she lingered until the hour of vespers of the said day, and then she died, but she received the rites of the church. The furnace was worth six shillings and eight pence. And the four wardmen of the said town with their wards, having been similarly<sup>1</sup> charged, examined, and sworn for this purpose, agree expressly with the said inquest.

HUNDRED OF CHADLINGTON.

Chipping  
Norton, Over  
Norton,  
Salford, and  
Cornwell

Inquest was taken at Chipping Norton on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Augustine the Bishop in the second year of King Richard the Second before John Hardy, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of Lawrence Walsh of Powisland, on view of his body, by the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that it happened at Chipping Norton on the said day of the said year, to wit, during the night before cock-crow, that a certain Richard Smith of Chipping Norton came and met the said Lawrence in the king's highway with a drawn knife, and struck him in the belly to the heart, of which wound he died forthwith without the rites of the church. The wound was twelve inches deep and two inches wide. The knife was worth two pence, etc.<sup>3</sup> And they say that the said Richard had no chattels. The finder of Lawrence's body was Geoffrey Welshman, who was attached on pledge of Ralph Pigot and Reginald Lovely. And thus the said Richard Smith feloniously slew the said Lawrence. And [the jurors] say that after committing the said felony, Richard fled forthwith, etc.<sup>4</sup> They also say that John Walcott, cobbler, was present, aiding and abetting the said felony; and that he had goods and chattels to the value of five shillings, etc. And the four co-townships<sup>5</sup> aforesaid, having been similarly charged, examined, and sworn for this purpose, agree expressly with the said inquest.

[A similar inquest follows; it was held before the same coroner in January, 1379. Four co-townships agree with the verdict of fourteen jurors.]

<sup>1</sup> In the same way as the inquest jury.

<sup>2</sup> June 2, 1379.

<sup>3</sup> *Etc.* probably means that Chipping Norton will account for the deadand.

<sup>4</sup> *Etc.* i.e. to some unknown place.

<sup>5</sup> The townships named in the margin at the beginning of the entry.

Mem. 8

## HUNDREDUM DE BAMPTON.

Lewe, Had-  
done, Nor-  
tone Bruyn  
et BurtoneVavat hie  
quia alibi  
irrotulatur

Inquisicio capta apud Lewe die Mercurii prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum 1<sup>mo</sup> coram Johanne Hardy coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' de morte Johannis le Heyr super visum corporis sui per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod contigit die Lune prox' post dictum festum Omnium Sanctorum anno supradicto<sup>2</sup> verba contumeliosa mota fuerunt inter Johannem Skynnere et dictum Johannem le Heyre ita quod predictus Johannes Skynner apud Lewe percussit predictum Johannem le Heyre cum quodam<sup>3</sup> secure vocato polhachet usque infra cerebrum unde statim obiit set confessus et habuit omnia jura sua ecclesiastica. Precium dicti polhachet iij.d., etc. Et sic eum felonice interfecit. Et statim post dictum factum se reddidit et missus est per dictum coronatorem ad gayolam castri Oxon'. Dicunt eciam per sacramentum suum quod Johannes filius predicti Johannis Schynner fuit adjuvans et consenciens ad feloniam predictam faciendam, etc. Et quatuor villate predictae inde similiter onerate, examinate et ad hoc jurati<sup>4</sup> expresse concordant ad inquisitionem predictam.<sup>5</sup>

. . . . .

[OXFORDSHIRE.<sup>6</sup>]

ROTULUS JOHANNIS CARSWELLE CORONATORIS DOMINI REGIS  
IN COMITATU OXON' ASSIGNATI ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI  
SECUNDI POST CONQUESTUM XII<sup>o</sup>, XIII<sup>o</sup>, XIII<sup>o</sup> ET XV<sup>o</sup> IN-  
TRANTE.

Witeneye

Will' Lore-  
mer capel-  
lanus de  
Charlebury  
attachi'  
Joh' Barte-  
lot, Rog'  
nuper wode-  
wardus de  
Cherlebury

Inquisicio ibidem capta die Mercurii prox' post festum Nativitatis Beate Marie anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xij<sup>o</sup> coram Johanne de Carswelle coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Radulphi Hosier, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>7</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Willelmus Lorimer capellanus de Charlebury die Martis in festo Nativitatis Beate Marie anno supradicto ora vesperarum cum gladio percussit dictum

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.<sup>2</sup> Supply *quod*.<sup>3</sup> *Sic*.<sup>4</sup> *Sic*.<sup>5</sup> The other membranes of this roll con-

tain many inquests similar in form to this one.

<sup>6</sup> Roll 136, one membrane, 12-15 Rich. II.<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

HUNDRED OF BAMPTON.

Lew, Had-  
den, Norton  
Bruin,<sup>2</sup> and  
Bourton

This is void  
here because  
it is enrolled  
elsewhere

Inquest was taken at Lew on Wednesday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of All Saints in the fiftieth year of King Edward the Third before John Hardy, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of John Heir, on view of his body, by the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that on Monday next after the said feast in the said year abusive words were exchanged at Lew by John Skinner and the said John Heir, so that the former struck the latter with a certain hatchet called a pole-hatchet, the wound penetrating to the brain and causing death forthwith, but he confessed and received all the rites of the church. The pole-hatchet was worth three pence, etc. And thus [John Skinner] feloniously killed him; and immediately after committing the act, he surrendered himself, and was sent to the gaol in the castle of Oxford by the said coroner. They also say on their oath that John, son of the said John Skinner, was [present], aiding and abetting the said felony, etc. And the four townships aforesaid, having been similarly charged, examined, and sworn for this purpose, agree expressly with the said inquest.

. . . . .

[OXFORDSHIRE.]

ROLL OF JOHN CARSWELL, THE KING'S CORONER IN OXFORDSHIRE, IN THE TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FIFTEENTH YEARS OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND.

Witney

Inquest was taken [at Witney] on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next after the Nativity of Blessed Mary in the twelfth year of King Richard the Second before John of Carswell, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of Ralph Hosier, whose body was viewed on the said day, by the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that at the hour of vespers on Tuesday the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Mary in the said year William Lorimer, chaplain of Charlbury, struck the

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 5, 1376.

<sup>2</sup> Camden's *Magna Britannia* mentions

two Nortons in this hundred, namely, Brize Norton and Norton Bruin. <sup>3</sup> Sept. 9, 1338.

Radulphum in capite et eum felonice interfecit. Et statim post factum captus fuit et missus ad gaiolam domini regis. Dicunt eciam quod Johannes Bartelot et Rogerus nuper wodewardus de Cherlebury percusserunt predictum Radulphum et concensientes et agentes ad interficiendum felonice dictum Radulphum cum gladio et j. gysarme. Et predicti Johannes et Rogerus missi fuerunt ad gaiolam domini regis. De inventore nichil quia habuit jura ecclesiastica. Et quatuor wardesmen cum totis wardis suis concordant hoc idem in omnibus. Precium ij. gladiorum et gisarme ij.s. unde villata respondebit.

Eynesham

Infortunium

Inquisicio ibidem capta die Mercurii prox' post festum Pasche anno regni regis Ricardi secundi xij<sup>o</sup> coram Johanne Carswelle coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Johannis Weoler, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>2</sup> cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis videlicet Stauntone Harecourt, Carsyntone, Haneburghe, Erdyngton et Eynesham. Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod predictus Johannes Weolar die Martis prox' post festum Pasche ivit in le Alures<sup>3</sup> campanili ad colligendum columbell' et per infortuniam<sup>4</sup> cadit in choro ecclesie cito post horam nonam et totum corpus suum fuit quassatum et sic moriebatur et nullus culpabilis de morte ejus. Et tandem venit Johannes Crips et invenit dictum Johannem Weolar sic mortuum. Et statim levavit lutesium et prosecutum<sup>5</sup> est modo debito, et invenit plegios de veniendo ubi et quando et ad faciendum omnia que jura<sup>6</sup> fuerint videlicet Johannem Sperman et Henricum Porter. Et iiij<sup>or</sup> villate concordant hoc idem in omnibus.

Milton Monachorum in parochia de Shiptone

Infortunium.  
Declaudum  
\* x. s.\*

Inquisicio ibidem capta die Mercurii in vigilia Assencionis Domini anno quo supra coram Johanne Carswelle coronatore domini regis, etc. de morte Johannis Cartere, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>7</sup> cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis videlicet Shuptone, Fiffhide, Foulebroke et Ascote. Qui dicunt . . . xij. liberi jur' cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis concordant hoc idem in omnibus. Precium ij. equorum x. s. cum cultro et vomere unde predicta villata de Miltone respondebit.

<sup>1-1</sup> Crossed out.<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.

s.v. 'alure').

<sup>4</sup> Sic.<sup>3</sup> A gallery, a passage round the roof of a church (Murray, *New Engl. Dict.*,<sup>5</sup> MS. *pros*', perhaps for *prosecutus*.<sup>6</sup> Sic.<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.<sup>8</sup> Crossed out.

said Ralph on the head with a sword, and feloniously slew him ; and immediately after the act he was arrested and sent to the king's gaol. They also say that John Bartlett and Roger, recently woodward of Charlbury, struck the said Ralph with a sword and a gisarm, and thus aided and participated in feloniously slaying the said Ralph. The said John and Roger were sent to the king's gaol. Concerning the finder [the jurors say] nothing, because [Ralph] received the rites of the church. And the four wardsmen with all their wards agree with this [verdict] in all things. The two swords and the gisarm were worth two shillings, for which the town [of Witney] will account.

Ensham

Inquest was taken [at Ensham] on Wednesday<sup>1</sup> next after Easter in the twelfth year of King Richard the Second before John Carswell, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of John Whee'ler, whose body was viewed on the said day, by the oath of [twelve men] together with four townships, to wit, Stanton Harcourt, Cassington, Church Handborough, Yarnton, and Ensham. They say on their oath that on Tuesday next after Easter John Wheeler went into the gallery of a bell-tower to catch pigeons, and by mischance he fell into the choir of the church soon after the hour of none.<sup>2</sup> His whole body was crushed, and so he died ; no one was guilty of his death. At length John Crips came and found the said John Wheeler thus lying dead ; he raised the hue forthwith, and the hue was pursued in due form ; and he found pledges to come at any time and place to do all things required by law, namely, John Spearman and Henry Porter. And the four townships agree with this [verdict] in all things.

Milton  
Monks in  
the parish of  
Shipton

Inquest was taken [at Milton] on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> the eve of Ascension Day in the above-mentioned year before John Carswell, the king's coroner [in Oxfordshire], concerning the death of John Carter, whose body was viewed on the said day, by the oath of [twelve men] together with four townships, to wit, Shipton [under Whichwood], Fifield, Fulbrook, and Ascott. They say [that John Carter was accidentally killed while ploughing in the eastern field of Milton in the furlong called Otehull' ; he received the rites of the church.] Twelve free jurors together with the four townships agree with this [verdict] in all things. The two horses with the coulter and ploughshare were worth ten shillings, for which the township of Milton will account.

<sup>1</sup> April 21, 1389.

<sup>2</sup> 3 P.M.

<sup>3</sup> May 26, 1389.



. . . . .

Eynesham

Infortu-  
nium.  
Deodandum  
dim.  
marca<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio ibidem capta die Veneris prox' post festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis Ricardi secundi xiiij<sup>o</sup> coram Johanne Carswelle coronatore domini regis de morte Johanne Edwaker, que dicto die visa fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> simul cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis videlicet Eynesham, Carsynton, Staunton et Southlye, cum totis decen' suis. Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod predicta Johanna fugavit j. carectam cum ij. equis et dicta Johanna per infortunium cessidit de dicta carecta et rota transit super collum ejus per quam recepit mortem. Et tandem venit Johannes Edwaker sponus<sup>3</sup> dicte Johanne et invenit dictam Johannam sic mortuam. Statim levavit hutesium et prosecutum<sup>4</sup> est modo debito, et invenit plegios de veniendo ubi et quando et<sup>5</sup> omnia que jur' fuerint videlicet Johannem Smart et Ricardum Cappe. Precium carecte cum ij. equis dim. marca unde villata de Southlye respondebit.

Anno xiiij<sup>o</sup>.  
Herdewike

Infortunium

Inquisicio ibidem capta die Veneris prox' post festum Pasche anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xiiij<sup>to</sup> coram Johanne Carsewelle coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Johannis Smithes filii Johannis Smithes de Stauntone, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>6</sup> una cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis videlicet Herdewike, Stauntone, Dokelyntone et Crotebrugge. Qui dicunt. . . . xij. liberi jur' cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis supradictis et cum totis decen' suis concordant hoc idem in omnibus.

Anno xv<sup>o</sup>.  
Hayle

Feonia.  
Joh' Colles.  
bourne  
wydere

Inquisicio capta ibidem die Jovis prox' post festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie xv<sup>o</sup> coram Johanne Carsewelle coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Thome Souay capellani, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>7</sup> una cum iiij<sup>or</sup> vill' propinquior' videlicet Crotebrugge, Lewe, Crawele et Haile cum totis dec' suis. Qui dicunt. . . . De inventore nichil quia habuit jura ecclesiastica. Requisiti de bonis et catallis dicti Johannis dicunt quod nulla

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>2-2</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *pros*'.

<sup>5</sup> Supply *ad faciendum* after *et*.

<sup>6</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

[An inquest follows similar in form to the preceding ; it was held before the same coroner on October 18, 1389 ; thirteen jurors found the verdict.]

Ensham

Inquest was taken [at Ensham] on Friday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second before John Carswell, the king's coroner, concerning the death of Joan Edwaker, whose body was viewed on that day, by the oath of [twelve men] together with four townships, to wit, Ensham, Cassington, Stanton Harcourt, and South Leigh, with all their tithings. They say on their oath that the said Joan was driving a cart with two horses, and by mischance she fell from the cart, and a wheel ran over her neck, and thus she came to her death. And at length her husband, John Edwaker, came and found her thus lying dead ; he raised the hue forthwith, and it was pursued in due form ; and he found pledges to come at any time and place to do all things required by law, namely, John Smart and Richard Capp. The cart with the two horses was worth half a mark, for which the township of South Leigh will account.

Hardwick

Inquest was taken [at Hardwick] on Friday <sup>2</sup> next after Easter in the fourteenth year of King Richard the Second before John Carswell, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of John Smiths, son of John Smiths of Stanton, whose body was viewed on that day, by the oath of [twelve men] together with four townships, to wit, Hardwick, Stanton Harcourt, Ducklington, and Curbridge. They say [that he was burned to death by mischance]. Twelve free jurors, together with the four townships aforesaid and with all their tithings, agree with this [verdict] in all things.

Hailey

Inquest was taken [at Hailey] on Thursday <sup>3</sup> next after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the fifteenth year of King Richard the Second before John Carswell, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of Thomas Souay, the chaplain, whose body was viewed on that day, by the oath of [twelve men] together with four neighbouring townships, to wit, Curbridge, Lew, Crawley, and Hailey. They say [that he was killed in a quarrel with John Colesborne]. Of the finder [they say] nothing because [Thomas] received the rites of the church. Asked concerning John's goods and chattels, they say

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 29, 1389.

<sup>2</sup> March 31, 1391.

<sup>3</sup> June 29, 1391.

Cata'la for' dim. marca.<sup>1</sup> habuit terras et tenementa set habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam dim. marce unde villata de Haile respondebit.

Eynesham <sup>2</sup>Inquisicio ibidem capta xxv<sup>o</sup> die Julii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xiiij<sup>to</sup> coram Johanne Carsewelle coronatore domini regis in comitatu Oxon' assignato de morte Willelmi Bray servientis Willelmi Jackes de Eynesham, qui dicto die visus fuit, per sacramentum . . .<sup>3</sup> per sac' Ricardi Caiwille dec[ennarii] de Eynesham, Johannis Londone dec' de Carsyngtone, Johannis Sexy dec' de Suttone et Johannis Hankyn dec' de Stauntone cum eorum decennis. Qui dicunt . . . Et appreciaverunt dictum equum ad v. s. vj. d. unde villata de Eynesham respondebit. De inventore nichil quia habuit jura ecclesiastica. xij. liberi jur' cum iiij<sup>or</sup> villatis concordant hoc idem in omnibus.<sup>4</sup>

### [SHROPSHIRE.<sup>5</sup>]

Mem. 1 Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skymestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' apud Welyntone die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Andrei <sup>6</sup>Apostoli anno regni regis Henrici quarti primo super visum corporis Johannis Prechur de Welyntone per iij. villas propinquiores videlicet Welyntone, Liee et Dothul per veredictum xij. juratorum videlicet . . .<sup>7</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Bret de Welyntone felonice interfecit Johannem Prechur se deffendendo cum uno daggardo precii vj. d. die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Andrei Apostoli anno supradicto apud Welyntone et quod idem Johannes retraxit se post feloniam factam, et valet in bonis xx. s. viij. d. que bona liberata fuerunt vill' predictis ad respondendum, etc.<sup>9</sup>

Catalla  
<sup>1</sup>xx. s.  
viij. d.  
vj. d.<sup>8</sup>

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skymestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' apud Mersche super visum corporis Johannis

<sup>1-1</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>2</sup> This inquest is on a piece of parchment sewn to the roll.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>4</sup> There are two more inquests on the dorse of the roll.

<sup>5</sup> Roll 147, three membranes, 17 Rich. II.—8 Hen. IV.

<sup>6</sup> Sic.

<sup>7</sup> Twelve names. <sup>8-8</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>9</sup> On mem. 2 there are three inquests in this same form, *i.e.* by three vill's by the oath of twelve jurors; also two inquests 'per tres villas propinq' videlicet . . . et per xij. juratores videlicet'; and two inquests 'per sac' xij. jur' de iij. vill' propinq' videlicet.'

that he had no lands or tenements, but he had goods and chattels worth half a mark, for which the township of Hailey will account.

Ensham

Inquest was taken [at Ensham] on the twenty-fifth of July in the fourteenth year of King Richard the Second before John Carswell, the king's coroner in Oxfordshire, concerning the death of William Bray, servant of William Jacks of Ensham, whose body was viewed on that day, by the oath of [twelve men, and] by the oath of Richard Cavill, tithingman of Ensham, John London,<sup>1</sup> tithingman of Cassington, John Sexy, tithingman of Sutton, and John Hankin, tithingman of Stanton Harcourt, together with their tithings. They say [that William was killed by falling from his cart]. And they appraised the horse at 5s. 6d., for which the township of Ensham will account. Of the finder [they say] nothing, because [William] received the rites of the church. Twelve free jurors together with the four townships agree with this [verdict] in all things.

[SHROPSHIRE.]

Inquest was taken at Wellington before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Tuesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in the first year of King Henry the Fourth, on view of the body of John Preacher of Wellington, by three neighbouring vills, to wit, Wellington, Lee,<sup>3</sup> and Dothill, by the verdict of twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Monday next after the feast of St. Andrew in the said year John Brett of Wellington feloniously slew John Preacher in self-defence at Wellington with a dagger worth six pence, and fled after committing the felony; and that his chattels were worth 20s. 8d., and were delivered to the said vills, in order that they may account for them [to the king].

Inquest was taken at Marsh before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on view of the body of John Leighton,

<sup>1</sup> London (?).

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 2, 1399.

<sup>3</sup> Lee Gomery.

Autem per-  
donatus<sup>3</sup>

Legtone die Mercurie<sup>1</sup> in festo Sancti Petri in Cathedra anno regni regis Henrici iiij. tercio per iiij. villas propinquoiores scilicet Actone, Fellamptone, Whyttingeslowe et Mersche et per veredictum xij. juratorum videlicet . . .<sup>2</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Thomas Parker quondam constabularius<sup>1</sup> castri de Clone felonice interfecit Johannem Leghtone cum gladio in capite suo die Martis prox' ante festum Sancti Petri in Cathedra et quod idem Thomas Parker post feloniam factam retraxit se, et nichil valet in bonis. Et dicunt quod Johannes Crowe junior fuit ibidem in vi et auxilio cum predicto Thoma ad interficiendum predictum Johannem Leghtone et quod retraxit se, et nichil valet in bonis.

Feloniam.  
Murdram

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skyrvestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' die Martis prox' post festum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xxj. apud Stamford super visum corporis Willelmi Goldestone per iiij. villas propinquoiores videlicet Stamford, Wodehous, Lie Prior', Hadley et per veredictum xij. juratorum scilicet . . .<sup>4</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Willelmus de Herford felonice murthuravit predictum Willelmum Goldston cum uno baculo nullius valoris in capite suo die Lune prox' post festum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli apud Underhullesfeld anno supradicto et predictus Willelmus Herford retraxit se post feloniam factam, et nichil valet in bonis.

Mem. 2

ROTULUS WILLELMI DE<sup>5</sup> SKYRMESTONE UNIUS CORONATORUM  
DOMINI REGIS IN COMITATU SALOP'.

De morte  
Ric' Croysier

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skyrvestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' die Lune in vigilia Sancti Bartholomei anno regni regis Ricardi secundi xix<sup>o</sup> apud Newport super visum corporis Ricardi Croysier per sacramentum xij. juratorum videlicet . . .<sup>6</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Sherye filius Thome Sherye de Newport felonice interfecit predictum Ricardum Croysier cum sagitta nullius valoris in corpore suo die Mercurie<sup>7</sup> prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie anno supradicto in eadem villa et post feloniam factam retraxit se, et nichil valet in bonis.

<sup>1</sup> Sic. <sup>2</sup> Twelve names. <sup>3</sup> MS. *añ pd'*.<sup>4</sup> Twelve names. There are many other inquests on mem. 2 and 3, in this same form, and in the following form: 'per iiij. villas propinq' videlicet . . . per sac' xij.

juratorum videlicet.'

<sup>5</sup> Sic.<sup>6</sup> Twelve names, over two of which is written *xl.s.*; probably two of the jurors were not present, and hence were fined fort. shillings.<sup>7</sup> Sic.



on Wednesday <sup>1</sup> the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the third year of King Henry the Fourth, by four neighbouring vills, to wit, Acton,<sup>2</sup> Felhampton, Whittingslow, and Marsh, and by the verdict of twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter's Chair Thomas Parker, formerly constable of the castle of Clun, feloniously slew John Leighton [by striking him] on the head with a sword, and fled after committing the felony, and that he has no chattels. And they say that John Crowe junior was there as an accessory, and aided the said Thomas to kill John Leighton; and that he [John Crowe] fled, and has no chattels.

Inquest was taken at Stamford before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Tuesday <sup>3</sup> next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the twenty-first year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of William Goldstone, by four neighbouring vills, to wit, Stamford, Woodhouse, Priors Lee, Hadley, and by the verdict of twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Monday next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the said year William of Herford feloniously murdered the said William Goldstone at Underhillsfield [by striking him] on the head with a staff of no value, and fled after committing the felony; and that he [William of Herford] has no chattels.

ROLL OF WILLIAM OF SKIRMESTONE, ONE OF THE KING'S  
CORONERS IN SHROPSHIRE.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at Newport before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Monday <sup>4</sup> the eve of St. Bartholomew in the nineteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Richard Crozier, by the oath of twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Wednesday <sup>5</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the said year John Sherry, son of Thomas Sherry of Newport, feloniously slew the said Richard Crozier in the said vill [by hitting him] in the body with an arrow of no value, and fled after committing the felony; and that he [John Sherry] has no chattels.

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 22, 1402.

<sup>2</sup> Acton Scott.

<sup>3</sup> July 3, 1397.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 23, 1395.

<sup>5</sup> Aug. 18, 1395.

De morte  
Isabelle de  
Walle

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skyrmestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' die Martis in festo Sancti Egidii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi xix<sup>o</sup> apud Cantelop super visum corporis Isabelle de Walle per sacramentum xij. juratorum de iiij. vill' propinquieribus Cantelop, Burtone, Bettone et Biritone per sacramentum xij. juratorum videlicet . . .<sup>1</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod le ertbrode unius wayn<sup>2</sup> interfecit predictam Isabellam apud Neuportbrug' die Sabbati prox' ante festum Sancti Bartholomei anno supradicto et sic mortua fuit et non aliter.

. . . . .

Mem. 3  
dorse

De morte  
Joh' Cotone.  
Murdram

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skyrmestone coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' apud Cotone die Martis prox' ante festum Sancte Wenefrede Virginis anno regni regis Ricardi Secundi xx. super visum corporis Johannis Cotone filii Roberti Cotone de iiij. villis propinquieribus videlicet Hodenet, Peppelowe, Stoke et Cotone per veredictum . . .<sup>3</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum . . . Item dicunt quod Betkyn de Berneys est manutentor felonum predictorum et quod omnes felones retraxerunt se, et nichil habent in bonis in isto comitatu. Et villate predictae onerantur de gladio predicto.

. . . . .

De morte  
Joh' Smethe-  
cote

Cat' for'<sup>5</sup>

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Skyrmeston coronatore domini regis in comitatu Salop' die Dominica in festo Sancti Bartholomei apud Mudle super visum corporis Johannis Smethecote anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xxij. per tres villas propinquoiores videlicet Mudle, Newtone et Baldertone et per xij. juratores videlicet . . .<sup>4</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Thomas the Smale die Mercurii prox' ante festum supradictum anno et loco supradictis cum uno syeul precii ij. d. felonice percussit predictum Johannem Smethecote in capite suo per quod obiit, et predictus Thomas se retraxit. Et habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam quadraginta solidorum que liberata fuerunt predictis villatis uti inde domino regi respondeant.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Above *unius wayn* are the words *nullius valoris*.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>5</sup> i.e. *forisfacta*.

<sup>6</sup> In some cases on mem. 2 and 3 the twelve jurors are 'charged' with the chattels of the felon.

Inquest was taken at Cantlop before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Tuesday the feast of St. Giles<sup>1</sup> in the nineteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Isabel of Wall, by the oath of twelve jurors of four neighbouring vills, to wit, Cantlop, Bourton, Betton, and Berrington, by the oath of twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Saturday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Bartholomew in the said year the axle-pin [?] of a wain caused the death of the said Isabel at Newport Bridge, and thus she died, and not otherwise.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at Cotton before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Tuesday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Winifred the Virgin in the twentieth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of John Cotton, son of Robert Cotton, by four neighbouring vills, to wit, Hodnet, Peplow, Stoke, and Cotton, by the verdict of [twelve men]. They say on their oath [that John of Willaston killed him with a sword worth twelve pence; and the murder was abetted by five others]. They also say that Batkin of Bernays was the maintainer<sup>4</sup> of the said felons, all of whom have fled, and that they have no chattels in this county. And the said vills are charged with the said sword.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at Middle before William Skirmestone, the king's coroner in Shropshire, on Sunday<sup>5</sup> the feast of St. Bartholomew in the twenty-third year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of John Smethcott, by three neighbouring vills, to wit, Middle, Newton,<sup>6</sup> and Balderton, and by twelve jurors, namely . . . They say on their oath that on Wednesday next before the said feast in the said year and place Thomas the Small feloniously struck the said John on the head with a sickle worth two pence, and caused his death, and the said John has fled. [Thomas] had goods and chattels worth forty shillings, which were delivered to the said townships in order that they may account for the same to the king.

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 1, 1395, which was Wednesday, not Tuesday.

<sup>2</sup> Aug. 21, 1395.

<sup>3</sup> Oct. 31, 1396.

<sup>4</sup> The next inquest in the roll states that Robert Cotton, John's father, was murdered

by the same persons, and that Batkin of Bernays was 'procurans eisdem felonibus ad faciendum murtrum predictum.'

<sup>5</sup> Aug. 24, 1399.

<sup>6</sup> Newton on the Hill.

[STAFFORDSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

## ROTULUS CORONATORIS.

Jacobus de Boghaye electus est ad officium coronatoris apud Stafford' in pleno comitatu mense Marcii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum nono.

De morte  
Will' Smale

Presentatum est per duodecim juratos<sup>2</sup> burgagii ville Novi Castri subtus Lymam videlicet . . .<sup>3</sup> qui dicunt per sacramenta sua quod die Dominica in festo Pasche anno regis supradicto hora vesperarum contencio mota fuit inter Willelmum filium Johannis Smale de Novo Castro et Johannem filium Henrici Hobbeson de Chedul apud Novum Castrum in foro ferri exopposito domo Willelmi Breryhurste, ita quod predictus Johannes felonice percussit predictum Willelmum Smale cum quodam cultello ex latere dextro per quod recepit mortem. Habuit jura ecclesie et statim obiit. Geva mater ejus fuit juxta eum quando obiit. Levavit clamorem. Venerunt de burgagio predicto et mandaverunt post Jacobum de Boghaye coronatorem et per visum illius mortuus sepultus fuit die sequente. Felo statim fugit et nichil habuit in bonis. Precium cultelli j. d.

De morte  
Ric' Stoke

Presentatum est per duodecim jur' de hiis villatis Balterleygh', Bettyleygh', Audeleygh', qui dicunt per sacramenta sua quod die Martis in festo Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti decimo hora prima diei Ricardus de Stoke colyer succidit quandam frondem de quadam querculo infra parcum de Heleygh' et per infortunium dicta frons cecidit super caput suum et eum oppressit et statim obiit. Alicia uxor ejus primo invenit eum. Levavit clamorem. Venerunt villate predice et mandaverunt post Jacobum de Boghaye coronatorem et per visum illius mortuus sepultus fuit in die sequente. Plegii predice Alicie veniendi coram justiciariis itinerantibus Willelmus Jaune, Ricardus Bothe. Frons erat nullius valoris.

<sup>1</sup> Roll 163, two skins joined so as to form one membrane, 9-16 Rich. II.; containing twenty-six presentments, ten of which are by the jurors of Newcastle, and nine by the jurors of Balterley, Betley, and Audley.

The same coroner appears in all the cases.

<sup>2</sup> *Juratos* is here written in full; elsewhere in the coroners' rolls the contraction *jur'* is generally found.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

## [STAFFORDSHIRE.]

## ROLL OF THE CORONER.

James of Bogay was elected to the office of coroner at Stafford in full county court in the month of March in the ninth year of King Richard the Second.

Twelve jurors of the burgage of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, to wit . . . present, and say on their oaths that at the hour of vespers on Easter Sunday<sup>1</sup> in the aforesaid year a dispute arose at Newcastle, in the iron-market opposite William Brieryhurst's house, between William, son of John Small of Newcastle, and John, son of Henry Hobson of Cheadle, so that the said John feloniously struck the said William in the right side with a certain knife, and thus he came to his death; he died forthwith after receiving the rites of the church. His mother Geva was near him when he died, and she raised the hue; [the men] of the said burgage came and sent for James of Bogay, the coroner, on whose view<sup>2</sup> the deceased was buried on the following day. The felon fled forthwith, and he had no chattels. The knife was worth a penny.

. . . . .

Twelve jurors of the townships of Balterley, Betley, and Audley present, and say on their oaths that, at the hour of prime on Tuesday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the tenth year of the said King Richard, Richard of Stoke, collier, cut down a branch of an oak in the park of Heighley, and by mischance it fell upon his head and crushed him, and he died forthwith. Alice his wife first found him, and she raised the hue; the said townships came, and sent for James of Bogay, the coroner, on whose view the deceased was buried on the following day. Pledges for the said Alice's appearance before the itinerant justices: William Jane, Richard Booth. The branch was of no value.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> April 22, 1386.

<sup>2</sup> The coroner viewed the body before burial.

<sup>3</sup> June 11, 1387, 6 a.m.



De morte  
Ricardi  
Underwode

Presentatum est per duodecim jur' de hiis villatis Madeleygh' et Onyleygh' qui dicunt per sacramenta sua quod die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancti Nicholai Episcopi anno regni regis Ricardi predicti terciodecimo hora gallicantus Radulphus filius Hugonis de Stoke de Adrynton de comitatu Cestrie venit ad domum Ricardi Underwode apud Wrymeforde in comitatu Staffordie et ibi pro antiqua ira precogitando mortem predicti Ricardi percussit eum cum quodam gladio super tibiam sinistram per quod recepit mortem. Vixit tamen per unam septimanam et habuit jura ecclesie et in aurora diei obiit. Venerunt villate predictae et mandaverunt post Jacobum de Boghaye coronatorem et per visum illius mortuus sepultus fuit die sequente. Felo statim fugit et nichil habuit extra comitatum Cestrie.

. . . . .

De morte  
Henr'  
Moyceok

Presentatum est per duodecim jur' de hiis villatis Leke, Chetultone, Grendone et Endone, qui dicunt per sacramenta sua quod die Lune in septimana Pentacostes<sup>1</sup> ad noctem anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti terciodecimo contencio mota fuit inter Willelmum Honte de Leke et Henricum Moyceok de Leke apud Leke in alto vico exopposito cruci, ita quod predictus Willelmus felonice percussit predictum Henricum cum quodam daggerio ex latere sinistro usque cor per quod recepit mortem et statim obiit. Cecilia uxor predicti Henrici fuit juxta eum quando obiit. Levavit clamorem. Venerunt villate predictae et mandaverunt post Jacobum de Boghaye coronatorem et per visum illius mortuus sepultus fuit die sequente. Felo captus fuit et missus fuit ad gaolam domini regis apud Stafford'. Et habuit in bonis ad valenciam xx. s. qui liberati fuerunt villatis predictis. Precium daggerii iij. d.

. . . . .

## [STAFFORDSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

Plures defectus quia non inquiritur<sup>3</sup> de bonis et catallis nec quis respondere inde debeat.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>2</sup> Roll 166, one membrane, 20 Rich. II.—1 Hen. IV.; fourteen inquests by twelve men of four neighbouring villis before Robert of Lockwood.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *inquir*.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *r' inde deb*. In all the cases of felony the roll states that the culprit had no chattels. Probably the coroner did not make careful inquiry regarding the chattels.

Twelve jurors of the townships of Madeley and Onneley present, and say on their oaths that at the hour of cock-crow on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next before the feast of St. Nicholas the Bishop in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second, Ralph, son of Hugh of Stoke of Adlington in Cheshire,<sup>2</sup> went to the house of Richard Underwood at Wrineford<sup>3</sup> in Staffordshire, and there, by reason of an ancient grudge, premeditating the said Richard's death, struck him upon the left leg with a sword, and thus caused his death; but he lived a week, and had the rites of the church, and then died at daybreak. The said townships came and sent for James of Bogay, the coroner, on whose view the deceased was buried on the following day. The felon fled forthwith, and he had nothing outside of Cheshire.

. . . . .

Twelve jurors of the townships of Leek, Cheddleton, Grindon, and Endon present, and say on their oaths that on the night of Monday<sup>4</sup> in Whit week in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second a dispute arose at Leek between William Hunt and Henry Maycock (both of Leek) opposite the cross in High Street, and the said William feloniously struck the said Henry with a dagger in the left side to the heart, whereby he came to his death, and died forthwith. The said Henry's wife Cecily was near him when he died, and she raised the hue; the aforesaid townships came and sent for James of Bogay, the coroner, on whose view the deceased was buried on the following day. The felon was arrested, and was sent to the king's gaol at Stafford; he had chattels worth twenty shillings, which were delivered to the said townships. The dagger was worth three pence.

. . . . .

### [STAFFORDSHIRE.]

There are many defects [in this roll] because inquiry was not made concerning the goods and chattels [of felons], nor who ought to account for them.

<sup>1</sup> Dec. 2, 1389.

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps Anderton.

<sup>3</sup> Camden calls this place 'Wrington'; it was in the parish of Madeley. <sup>4</sup> May 23, 1390.

De morte  
Joh' Swale

Non s<sup>q</sup> 2

Inquisicio capta apud Merlone die Martis prox' post festum Sancte Trinitatis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xx<sup>o</sup> coram Roberto de Loewode uno coronatorum domini regis in comitatu Staff' super visum corporis Johannis Swale per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> juratorum de quatuor villatis propinquieribus. Qui dicunt super sacramenta sua quod die Lune prox' post festum predictum anno et loco supradictis Nicholaus de Chetultone venit per regiam viam cum pannis lineis et laneis et aliis bonis, et venerunt super eum quidam latrones et voluissent occidisse eum et depredasse eum. Et dictus Nicholaus in defensu sui ipsius cum uno baculo precii j. d. percuciebat unum de dictis latronibus qui vocabatur Johannes Swale recte in capite per quod statim postea obiit set habuit jura ecclesie et sepultus est. Et predictus Nicholaus se retraxit immediate post feloniam predictam cum omnibus bonis et catallis suis, etc.

. . . . .

### [STAFFORDSHIRE.<sup>3</sup>]

Ric' Bar-  
bour.  
Feloniam

Catalla for'  
2 xij. d.  
ij. s.<sup>2</sup>

Inquisicio capta apud Haraldeswestone coram Thoma de Wolastone uno coronat' domini regis in comitatu Staff' die Mercurii prox' post festum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum undecimo per quatuor villatas propinquieres videlicet Haraldeswestone, Woltone, Norbury et Mere super visu corporis Johannis Taylour de Haraldeswestone per sacramentum . . .<sup>4</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod . . . Et predictus Ricardus post feloniam predictam sic factam fugiit, et quod nulla habuit bona sive catalla. Precii gladii ij. s. unde villata de Haraldeswestone predicta respondebit.

. . . . .

Feloniam.  
Willelmus  
Junsone.

Inquisicio capta apud Penkeryche coram prefato Thoma de Wolastone uno coron' domini regis in comitatu predicto die Veneris prox' ante festum Anunciacionis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis supradicti quartodecimo super visu corporis Ranulphi Feltone per quatuor villatas propinquieres videlicet Penkeryche, Dunstone, Peletvale et

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.    <sup>2</sup> Reading doubtful.  
<sup>3</sup> Roll 168, one membrane, 11-14 Hen. IV.;  
eleven inquests before Thomas Wollaston

by four vills by the oath of twelve, or by  
four vills and by the oath of twelve.

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.    <sup>5-5</sup> Crossed out.

Inquest was taken at Marston [?] on Tuesday<sup>1</sup> next after the Holy Trinity in the twentieth year of King Richard the Second before Robert of Lockwood, one of the king's coroners in Staffordshire, on view of the body of John Swale, by the oath of [twelve] jurors of four neighbouring townships. They say on their oaths that on Monday next after the said feast in the said year and place Nicholas of Cheddleton was going along the king's highway with linen and woollen cloths and other goods, when he was met by certain thieves who tried to kill and rob him. And the said Nicholas in self-defence struck one of the robbers, named John Swale, right over the head with a staff worth a penny, of which blow he died forthwith, but he had the rites of the church and was buried [on view of the coroner]. And immediately after the said felony the said Nicholas fled with all his goods and chattels, etc.

. . . . .

### [STAFFORDSHIRE.]

Inquest was taken at Weston<sup>2</sup> before Thomas of Wollaston, one of the king's coroners in Staffordshire, on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul in the eleventh year of King Henry the Fourth, on view of the body of John Taylor of Weston, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Weston, Walton, Norbury, and Meer,<sup>4</sup> by the oath of [twelve men]. They say on their oath that [Richard Barber entered John Taylor's house and killed him with a sword]. And the said Richard fled after having thus committed the felony. And [they say] that he had no goods or chattels. The sword was worth two shillings, for which the township of Weston will account.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at Penkridge before the said Thomas of Wollaston, one of the king's coroners in the said county, on Friday<sup>5</sup> next before Lady Day in the fourteenth year of the said reign, on view of the body of Ranulf Felton, by four neighbouring townships, to wit, Penkridge, Dunston, Peletvale, and Levedale, by the oath of [twelve

<sup>1</sup> June 19, 1397.

<sup>2</sup> Weston Jones.

<sup>5</sup> March 24, 1413; but Henry the Fourth's reign ended March 20, 1413.

<sup>3</sup> July 2, 1410.

<sup>4</sup> Meer Town.

Catalla for'  
 2 iiii. d.<sup>2</sup>  
 Ex<sup>ur</sup>.<sup>3</sup>  
 Defectus  
 coronatoris<sup>4</sup>

Lovedale per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> Qui dicunt . . . Et idem  
 Willelmus Junsone post feloniam predictam sic factam fugiit. Precii  
 le bille iiii. d. unde villata de Penkeryche predicta respondebit.<sup>5</sup>

[SUFFOLK.<sup>6</sup>]

Mem. 3

Stowe

Felonias

Ad comitatum Suff' tentum apud Gippevicum die Lune in festo  
 Conversionis Sancti Pauli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu  
 xxx<sup>o</sup> incipiente G. Seynteler tunc vic[ecomite]. Stowe cum Thorneye,  
 Combes, Fynbergh' cum Buxhale, Herlestone cum Shellond presentant  
 quod die Sabbati in festo Sancti Stephani anno xxix<sup>o</sup> dicti reg[is] quidam  
 Thomas de Skultone felonice interfecit Matill' de Moundeville in regia  
 strata de Stowemarket. Inquisicio capta super visum corporis coram  
 Ricardo de Martelesham coronatore domini regis comitatus predicti  
 apud Stowemarket die Martis in festo Sancti Thome Martiris anno  
 supradicto per xij. jur[atores]. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum  
 quod predictus Thomas de Skulton obviavit dictam Matill' de Mounde-  
 ville et ex malicia precogitata cepit baculum ipsius Matill' extra  
 manum suam et percussit eam plures ictus ita quod dicta Matill'  
 cecidit ad terram et levavit hutesium super dictum Thomam. Et  
 super hoc predictus Thomas extraxit cultellum vocatum broche et  
 percussit dictam Matill' felonice in sinistra parte capitis quemdam<sup>7</sup>  
 plagam de qua moriebatur. Johanna le Mellere fuit cum ea in strata  
 quando obiit cujus plegii sunt Willelmus de Estone, Walterus Siriche.  
 Proximi vicini Johanna le Mellere, Ricardus Prat, Rogerus de Badele,  
 Ranulphus de Wode, quorum plegii sunt . . .<sup>8</sup> Et predictus Thomas  
 de Skultone captus fuit per constabularios et ductus ad castrum de  
 Eye. Precium armorum unde Matill' occisus<sup>9</sup> fuit vj. d. unde villata  
 respondebit.<sup>10</sup> Requisiti<sup>11</sup> de bonis et catallis, terris et tenementis  
 liberis felonis qui dicunt quod habuit unum cotagium cum curtilagio

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.      <sup>2-2</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>3</sup> This seems to mean *extrahitur*; the value of the deodand is placed in the estreats.

<sup>4</sup> His record is defective, probably because he says nothing concerning William's chattels.

<sup>5</sup> In one case on this roll William Stokley, escheator of the king in Staffordshire, is

answerable for a deodand.

<sup>6</sup> Roll 173, three membranes, 26-31 Edw. III., containing presentments made in the county court by four vills, and the corresponding inquests; also one abjuration.

<sup>7</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>8</sup> Eight names.

<sup>9</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>10</sup> MS. *vill' respond'.*

<sup>11</sup> MS. *requis'*.



men]. They say [that Ranulf tried to kill William Jonson, who in self-defence then hit Ranulf with a bill and caused his death]. And the said William Jonson fled after having thus committed the said felony. The bill was worth four pence, for which the township of Penkridge will account.

[SUFFOLK.]

. . . . .

At the county court of Suffolk held at Ipswich on Monday<sup>1</sup> the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, at the beginning of the thirtieth year of King Edward the Third, when G. St. Clair was sheriff, Stowmarket with Thorney, Combs, Finborough with Buxhall, Harleston with Shelland present that on Saturday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Stephen in the twenty-ninth year of the said king a certain Thomas of Scoulton feloniously slew Maud of Amundeville in the king's highway at Stowmarket. Inquest was taken at Stowmarket, on view of the body, before Richard of Martlesham, the king's coroner of the said county, on Tuesday<sup>3</sup> the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr in the said year, by twelve jurors. They say on their oath that the said Thomas met the said Maud, and with malice aforethought took her staff from her hand and struck her many blows, so that she fell to the ground and raised the hue against the said Thomas. Thereupon he drew a knife called a broach and feloniously struck the said Maud a blow upon the left side of the head, of which she died. Joan Miller was with her in the highway when she died, and her pledges are William of Easton and Walter Search. The nearest neighbours were Joan Miller, Richard Pratt, Roger of Badley, and Ranulf Wood, whose pledges are . . . And the said Thomas of Scoulton was arrested by the constables and taken to the castle of Eye. The weapons with which Maud was killed were worth sixpence, for which the township [of Stowmarket] will account. Being asked concerning the felon's goods and chattels, freehold lands and tenements, the jurors say that he had a cottage with a curtilage containing half a rod of freehold land, worth two shillings a

<sup>1</sup> Jan. 25, 1356.

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 26, 1355.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 29, 1355.

Deod' vj. d.  
Firma per  
annum ij. s.  
Catalla for'  
xl. d.

continente dim. rod terre libere et valet per annum ij. s. et quod habuit bona et catalla ad valenciam xl. d. unde villata de Stowemarket respondebit. Nomina constabulariorum Johannes le Neve junior et Robertus le Bextere.

. . . . .

Suff.  
Wylforle

Memorandum quod die Martis prox' ante festum Translacionis Sancti Thome Martiris anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xxx<sup>mo</sup> quidam Johannes Somer de Kent posuit se in ecclesia de Ufforde et in eadem commoravit x. dies sequentes, et tunc per mandatum proborum hominum villate predictae de Ufforde Ricardus de Martelesham coronator domini regis in comitatu Suff' ad dictam ecclesiam accessit et in presencia proborum et legalium hominum dictae villate et <sup>1</sup>aliarum villatarum vicinarum<sup>1</sup> requisivit dictum Johannem qualiter et qua de causa in dicta ecclesia moram fecit.

Abjuracio

Quo respondente pro feloniam facta et deinde idem coronator jubend' ipsum quod ad pacem domini regis se redderet, qui minime curavit set ibidem coram dicto coronatore et aliis fidelibus domini regis cognovit se esse latronem de eo quod die Lune prox' ante festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xxix<sup>o</sup> furtive furasse in Sternefeld pannos laneos et lineos de quodam Eustachio serviente Johannis Damoundeville de Sternefeld predicta ad valenciam sex sol. et octo den. Et eciam cognovit quod ipse simul cum Henrico de Selesheye et alio homine ignoto cujus nomen ignoratur felonice fregerunt prisonam domini regis de Meltone nocte die Martis prox' ante festum Translacionis Sancti Thome Martiris predictum anno supradicto in contemptu dicti domini regis. Propter quod predictus Johannes Somer de Kent coram predicto coronatore et aliis fidelibus domini regis tunc ibidem presentibus regnum regis Anglie abjuravit. Et datus est ei portus apud Baudreseye per iij. dietas.<sup>2</sup> Inquisicio capta ibidem coram dicto coronatore per xij. jur[atores] de bonis et catallis, terris et tenementis predicti Johannis Somer et de conscientibus et auxiliantibus dictam prisonam frangend'. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod terras neque tenementa habuit quod sciant set habuit pannos lineos et laneos qui appreciantur ad octo solidos que bona sunt in custodia prioris Elyensis in manerio suo de Meltone unde respondebit. Et dicunt quod quidam Henricus de Selesheye et unus homo ignotus fuerunt de auxilio et consensu ad dictam prisonam frangend'.

For' viij. s.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *al' vill' vicinis*.

<sup>2</sup> *dicta*, a day's journey.

year, and goods and chattels worth forty pence, for which the township of Stowmarket will account. The names of the constables are John le Neve junior and Robert Baxter.

[Hundred  
of] Wilford

Memorandum that on Tuesday <sup>1</sup> next before the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr in the thirtieth year of King Edward the Third a certain John Somer of Kent took refuge in the church of Ufford, where he remained during the ten following days; and then, by order of the good men of the said township of Ufford, Richard of Martlesham, the king's coroner in Suffolk, came to the church, and, in the presence of the good and lawful men of the said township and of other neighbouring townships, asked the said John why he tarried in that church. He answered, For having committed a felony. Then the coroner ordered him to surrender himself to the king's peace. He would not do this, but there before the said coroner and other subjects of the king he confessed that he was a thief, for that on Monday <sup>2</sup> next before the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward the Third he had as a thief stolen woollen and linen cloths worth 6s. 8d. in Sternfield from a certain Eustace, the servant of John of Amundeville of Sternfield. He also confessed that, in contempt of the lord king, he together with Henry of Selsey and another man, whose name is unknown, had feloniously broken the king's prison at Melton on the night of Tuesday next before the said feast of St. Thomas in the said year.<sup>3</sup> Therefore the said John Somer of Kent abjured the king's realm of England before the said coroner and the other subjects of the king then and there present. The port of Bawdsey was assigned to him, [and he was allowed] three days [to reach it]. Inquest was made there [at Ufford] before the said coroner by twelve jurors concerning the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said John Somer, and concerning those who abetted and aided him in breaking the said prison. They say on their oath that he had no lands or tenements, as far as they know, but he had linen and woollen cloths, which are appraised at eight shillings; these goods are in charge of the prior of Ely in his manor of Melton, and he will account for them. And they say that a certain Henry of Selsey and an unknown man aided and abetted him in breaking the said prison.

<sup>1</sup> July 5, 1356.

<sup>2</sup> June 22, 1355.

<sup>3</sup> 1356.

Samif'

Felonia.  
Deod' vj. d.Terr' ij. s.  
For' catalla  
xx. s.

Ad comitatum Suff' tentum apud Gipp' die Lune prox' post festum Decollacionis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xxx° G. de Seynteler tunc vic[ecomite]. Villate de Bergholte, Brantham, Stratford et Capele presentant quod die Dominica prox' ante festum Sancti Laurencii anno supradicto in Estbergholte quedam contencio mota erat inter Willelmum filium Thome Skynnere [de] Stratford et Radulphum Ferour de Bergholte. . . . Inquisicio capta super visum corporis apud Bergholte coram Ricardo de Martlesham coronatore domini regis in comitatu Suff' die Lune in festo Assumptionis Beate Marie anno supradicto predicti reg[is] per xij. jur[atores]. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod nichil aliud potest inquiri nisi quod dictus Willelmus filius Thome Skynnere de Stratford interfecit Radulphum Ferour de Bergholte ut predictum est. Et dicunt quod predictus Willelmus filius Thome Skynnere arestatus fuit per Johannem ballivum Johannis de Suttone militis in Bergholte et liberavit corpus dicti Willelmi Johanni Toft et Willelmo atte Heth constabulariis ville de Bergholte, et ipsi ceperunt pro eo pleg[ios] de pace et dederunt licenciam eidem eundi ubicunque voluerit unde respondebunt. Requisiti<sup>1</sup> de bonis et catallis, terris et tenementis ejusdem Willelmi filii Thome Skynnere qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod habuit unum messuagium et j. acram terre in Stratforde et valet per annum ij. s. et quod habuit bona et catalla in eadem villa ad valenciam xx. s. unde villata de Stratford respondebit.

[WARWICKSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

ROTULUS ROBERTI HOLEWEY UNIVS CORONATORUM DOMINI  
REGIS IN COMITATU WARR' IN HUNDREDO DE KYNGTONE  
ANNO XXXIX°.

Ilmyndone

Inquisicio capta coram Roberto Holewey uno coronatorum domini regis in comitatu Warr' apud Ilmyndone die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Thome Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxix° super visu corporis Johannis Hervy oppressi per

<sup>1</sup> MS. *requis*'.<sup>2</sup> Roll 183, one membrane, 39-40 Edw. III., containing six inquests by twelve jurors.

Near the end of each case we find the words: 'et hoc presentant predicti jur' iiij. villat' de . . .'

At the county court of Suffolk held at Ipswich on Monday <sup>1</sup> next after the feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist in the thirtieth year of King Edward the Third, when G. of St. Clair was sheriff, the townships of Bergholt, Brantham, Stratford, and Capel present that on Sunday <sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Lawrence in the said year a quarrel arose in East Bergholt between William, son of Thomas Skinner of Stratford, and Ralph Ferrer of Bergholt. [Ralph hit William with an iron fork, and then William killed Ralph with an axe worth six pence. Ralph's wife Joan was present when he died; she finds two pledges. The four nearest neighbours produce eight pledges.] Inquest was held at Bergholt, on view of the body, before Richard of Martlesham, the king's coroner in Suffolk, on Monday <sup>3</sup> the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the said year of the said king, by twelve jurors. They say on their oath that nothing else can be ascertained except that the said William, son of Thomas Skinner of Stratford, slew Ralph Ferrer of Bergholt, in manner aforesaid. And they say that William was arrested in Bergholt by John, the bailiff of John of Sutton, knight, and he delivered the body of the said William to John Toft and William Heath, constables of the vill of Bergholt; and they accepted from him pledges of the peace and gave him permission to go where he pleased, for which they will answer.<sup>4</sup> Being asked concerning the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said William, they say on their oath that he had a messuage and an acre of land in Stratford, worth two shillings a year, and goods and chattels in the same vill worth twenty shillings, for which the township of Stratford will account.

## [WARWICKSHIRE.]

ROLL OF ROBERT OF HOLLWAY, ONE OF THE KING'S CORONERS  
IN WARWICKSHIRE IN THE HUNDRED OF KINGTON IN THE  
THIRTY-NINTH YEAR [OF EDWARD THE THIRD].

Inquest was taken at Ilmington before Robert Hollway, one of the king's coroners in Warwickshire, on Tuesday <sup>5</sup> next after the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle in the thirty-ninth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the mangled body of John Hervey, by the oath

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 5, 1356.<sup>2</sup> Aug. 7, 1356.<sup>3</sup> Aug. 15, 1356.<sup>4</sup> A person attached for manslaughter could not lawfully be bailed without a

special royal precept (Year Book, 30-31 Edw. I. p. 506; Bracton, fol. 117 b).

<sup>5</sup> Dec. 23, 1365.



Infortunium sacramentum. . . .<sup>1</sup> Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod contigit apud Ilmyndone die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Thome Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxix<sup>o</sup> quod Johannes Hervy de Ilmyndone fugavit iiij<sup>or</sup> equos tractantes unam carectam et per infortunium cecidit ad terram et dicti iiij<sup>or</sup> equi tractaverunt eandem carectam super corpus dicti Johannis per quod statim moriebatur sine jure ecclesiastico. Et Johannes Calewe primo invenit eum sic oppressum, qui levavit hutesium et invenit Johannem Warde et Simonem Thusteyn manucaptiores suos essendi coram justiciariis, etc. Et nulla habuit bona. Et dicti quatuor equi et carecta appreciantur ad lxxj. s. viij. d. pro deodand[a] domini regis unde villata de Ilmyndone oneratur. Et hoc presentant predicti jur' iiij<sup>or</sup> villatarum de Ilmyndone, Foxcote, Stoke et Compton Scorfen.

xvj. s.  
viij. d.

[WILTSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

Wiltes<sup>3</sup> ROTULUS JOHANNIS AUNCCELL' UNIUS CORONATORUM DOMINI REGIS IN COMITATU PREDICTO DE ADVENTURIS MORTIS HOMINUM PER IPSUM VISUS<sup>4</sup> A DIE MARTIS PROX' ANTE FESTUM SANCTI ANDREE APOSTOLI ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI PRIMO QUO DIE IPSE JOHANNES IN PLENO COMITATU ELECTUS FUIT ET AD OFFICIUM CORONATORIS JURATUS. QUI VOBIS SIGNIFICAT INQUISITIONES CORAM IPSO DEBITE CAPTAS.

Bradeforde Inquisicio capta coram Johanne Auncell' coronatore domini regis apud Wroksale infra hundredum predictum de morte Willelmi Ropare super visum corporis ejusdem Willelmi die Veneris prox' post festum Sancte Katerine Virginis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi primo per sacramentum . . .<sup>4</sup> et per sacramentum decennarii et decenne<sup>5</sup> de Fortuna Wrocsale et decennarii et decenne de Comerwelle et decennarii et decenne de Attewarde et decennarii et decenne de Shaldefeld de propinquioribus quatuor villatis. Qui omnes dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Jovis prox' ante festum Sancte Katerine Virginis anno regni regis Ricardi predicto quidam Willelmus Ropare super quodam equo equitans intravit ripam vocatam Haukelebroke et accidit quod de equo suo in eadem aqua cesidit et in eadem aqua submersus fuit

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 201, one membrane, 1-2 Rich. II., containing seven inquests by twelve (in one case thirteen) jurors, and by the tithing-

man and tithing of four neighbouring villis.

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *decennar' et decenn'* here and elsewhere in the roll.

of [twelve jurors]. They say on their oath that it happened at Ilmington on Monday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle in the thirty-ninth year of King Edward the Third that John Hervey of Ilmington was driving four horses attached to a cart, when by mischance he fell to the ground, and the said horses drew the cart over his body, so that he died forthwith without the rites of the church. John Calow, who first found him thus crushed, raised the hue, and produced John Ward and Simon Thurstan as pledges for his appearance before the justices, etc. [John Hervey] had no chattels. The four horses and the cart are appraised at 66s. 8d. as the king's deodand, with which the township of Ilmington is charged. And the said jurors of the four townships of Ilmington, Foxcote, Stoke, and Compton-Scorpion present this.

. . . . .

## [WILTSHIRE.]

ROLL OF JOHN ANCELL, ONE OF THE KING'S CORONERS IN THE SAID COUNTY, CONCERNING FATAL ACCIDENTS FALLING UNDER HIS VIEW<sup>1</sup> FROM TUESDAY<sup>2</sup> NEXT BEFORE THE FEAST OF ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE IN THE FIRST YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND, ON WHICH DAY THE SAID JOHN WAS ELECTED AND SWORN TO THE OFFICE OF CORONER. AND HE MAKES KNOWN TO YOU THE INQUESTS DULY TAKEN BEFORE HIM.

Bradford

Inquest was taken at Wraxall<sup>3</sup> within the said hundred [Bradford] before John Ancell, the king's coroner, concerning the death of William Roper, on view of his body, on Friday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Catherine the Virgin in the first year of King Richard the Second, by the oath of [twelve jurors] and by the oath of the tithingman and tithing of Wraxall, the tithingman and tithing of Comberwell, the tithingman and tithing of Atworth, and the tithingman and tithing of Chalfield, the four neighbouring townships. All of them say on their oath that on Thursday next before the feast of St. Catherine in the said year of King Richard a certain William Roper rode on a horse into the stream called Hawkley Brook, and fell from his horse into the water and was drowned, so that he died forthwith.

<sup>1</sup> The reference is to his view of the bodies.<sup>2</sup> South Wraxall or Wraxhall.<sup>3</sup> Nov. 24, 1377.<sup>4</sup> Nov. 27, 1377.

Deod'  
xij. d.<sup>1</sup>

per quod in instanti obiit. Et dicunt quod dictus equus fuit causa mortis ipsius Willelmi et appreciatur in xij. d. unde villata de Wrok-sale oneratur ut deodanda regis.

Et Philippus Bragge est primus inventor  
dicti Willelmi qui manucaptus est per

{ Johannem Gay  
Willelmum Bryde  
Johannem Childe  
Henricum Dobbe.<sup>2</sup>

. . . . .

wan'

Joh' Suoter

Felonla

\* Deod'  
iiij. d.<sup>4</sup>

Inquisicio capta coram Johanne Auncell', coronatore domini regis apud Erchesfonte die Sabbati in vigilia Pasche anno regni regis Ricardi primo de morte Johannis Hore super visum corporis ejusdem Johannis per sacramentum . . .<sup>3</sup> et per sacramentum decennarii et decenne de Sterte et decennarii et decenne de Hechelhamptone et decennarii et decenne de Wedhamptone et decennarii et decenne de Escote de propinquiribus quatuor villatis. Qui omnes dicunt super sacramentum suum quod nocte diei Dominice prox' post festum Sancti Mathie Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi primo Johannes Suoter filius Roberti Suoter venit ad domum Johannis Hore apud Erchesfonte et ibidem dictus Johannes Suoter dictum Johannem Hore cum uno gladio percussit in dextro brachia<sup>5</sup> per quod obiit, et sic ipsum felonice interfecit. Et dicunt quod dictus Johannes Hore habuit jura ecclesiastica. Et dictus gladius appreciatur in iiij. d. unde decennarius et decenna de Erch' oneratur<sup>6</sup> ut deodanda domini regis. Et predictus Johannes Suoter se retraxit et nichil habuit in bonis.

. . . . .

## [WILTSHIRE.<sup>7</sup>]

Mem. 1

RECORD' THOME BOWIERE ET ROBERTI BOUT CORONATORUM DOMINI REGIS IN CIVITATE NOVE SARISBIRIE<sup>8</sup> AD OFFICIUM PREDICTUM JURATORUM DIE MARTIS PROX' POST FESTUM SANCTI LAURENCII ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI POST CONQUESTUM QUINTO.

De morte  
Willelmi  
Bierde

Inquisicio capta apud Novam Sar' die Lune prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum quinto coram Thoma Bowiere et Roberto Bout coronatoribus

<sup>1-1</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>2</sup> In the other cases in this roll the first finder generally produces four pledges.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>5</sup> Sic.

<sup>4-4</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>6</sup> Sic.

<sup>7</sup> Roll 204, two membranes, 5-7 Rich. II., containing eight inquests by twelve men and by the alderman and four men from each of four wards of Salisbury; also two appeals.

<sup>8</sup> MS. Sar'.

They also say that the said horse was the cause of his death, and it is appraised at twelve pence, with which as the king's deodand the township of Wraxall is charged. Philip Bragg, who was the first finder of the said William, was mainprised by John Gay, William Bride, John Child, and Henry Dobb.

[Hundred  
of] Swan-  
borough

Inquest was held at Urchfont before John Ancell, the king's coroner, on Saturday<sup>1</sup> the eve of Easter Day in the first year of King Richard concerning the death of John Hore, on view of his body, by the oath of [twelve jurors] and by the oath of the tithingman and tithing of Stert, the tithingman and tithing of Etchilhampton, the tithingman and tithing of Wedhampton, and the tithingman and tithing of Eastcott, the four neighbouring townships. All of them say on their oath that on the night of Sunday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle in the first year of King Richard, John Souter, son of Robert Souter, went to John Hore's house at Urchfont, and there the said John Souter struck the said John Hore on the right arm with a sword, of which blow he died, and thus [John Souter] feloniously slew him. And [the jurors] say that he had the rites of the church. The said sword is appraised at four pence, with which as the king's deodand the tithingman and tithing of Urchfont are charged. The said John Souter fled, and he had no chattels.

### [WILTSHIRE.]

RECORD OF THOMAS BOWYER AND ROBERT BOUT, THE KING'S CORONERS IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY, WHO WERE SWORN TO THAT OFFICE ON TUESDAY<sup>3</sup> NEXT AFTER THE FEAST OF ST. LAWRENCE IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND.

Inquest was held at Salisbury on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of All Saints in the fifth year of King Richard the Second before Thomas Bowyer and Robert Bout, the king's coroners in the city of

<sup>1</sup> April 17, 1378.

<sup>2</sup> Feb. 28, 1378.

<sup>3</sup> Aug. 13, 1381.

<sup>4</sup> Nov. 4, 1381.

domini regis in civitate Nove Sar' de morte Willelmi Bierde super  
 Infortunium corpus suum presens per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> liberorum juratorum  
 et Roberti Curtlyngstoke aldremanni<sup>2</sup> de Novo Vico et quatuor  
 hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldremannie,<sup>2</sup> Johannis Drewery aldr'  
 de Foro et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldr', Johannis  
 Balle aldr' de Sancto Martino et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem  
 aldr', Johannis Cammel aldr' de Prato et quatuor hominum vicinorum  
 ejusdem aldr'. Qui omnes jurati dicunt per sacramentum suum quod  
 ibi ignis incaute custoditus in domo predicti Willelmi Bierde lectum  
 ejus cremasset nocte sequente post diem Omnium Sanctorum anno  
 regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum quinto, idem Willelmus  
 Bierde percipiens dampnum et periculum ejusdem ignis intrans in  
 cameram in qua dictus ignis erat ex nimio fumo ibidem idem Willelmus  
 suffocatus erat et sic mortem suam cepit jura habens ecclesiastica.  
 Et quod nullus est causa mortis sue. Et primus inventor fuit  
 Johannes Bocher serviens ejusdem Willelmi qui manucaptus est per  
 Henricum Dawe, Willelmum Lok.

. . . . .

Johannes Bristowe de Nova Sar' webbe venit in civitate Nove  
 Sar' die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Ambrosii anno regni regis  
 Ricardi secundi post conquestum quinto et coram coronatoribus pre-  
 dictis appellavit Johannem Downe qui tunc presens fuit et cum  
 manuopere subscripto captus, quod ipse Johannes Downe die Jovis in  
 Suspensus septimana Pasche anno supradicto duo coopertoria precii vj. s. viij. d.,  
 duo lintheamina<sup>3</sup> precii ij. s., unum tapetum precii vj. d., unum  
 manutergium precii vj. d., unum velamen fili precii iiij. d. et unum  
 whytel precii vj. d., ipsius Johannis Bristowe apud Novam Sar'  
 felonice furatus fuit. Super quo appello ad prosecucionem ejusdem  
 Johannis Bristowe coram Johanne Goweyn ballivo libertatis episcopi  
 Sar' apud Novam Sar' prosessu inde continuato de predicta felonia  
 convictus fuit et suspensus nulla habens bona seu catalla.

. . . . .

Mem. 2 ROTULUS RECORD' THOME BOWIERE ET WILLELMI GODMAN-  
 STONE CORONATORUM DOMINI REGIS IN CIVITATE NOVE SAR'.

Inquisicio capta apud Novam Sar' die Lune prox' post festum  
 Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post con-

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *aldr'*.

<sup>3</sup> MS. *linthia*.



Salisbury, concerning the death of William Beard, on [view of] his body [there] present, by the oath of [twelve men] free jurors, and of Robert Cortlingstock alderman of New Street and four neighbours of that ward, John Drewry alderman of Market [ward] and four neighbours of that ward, John Ball alderman of St. Martin's and four neighbours of that ward, John Cammel alderman of Mead and four neighbours of that ward. All of them, having been sworn, say on their oath that on the night after All Saints in the fifth year of King Richard the Second a fire in the house of the said William Beard was not carefully attended to, and it ignited his bed. Seeing that the fire was harmful and dangerous, William entered the chamber where it was, and was suffocated by the excessive smoke, and thus he came to his death after receiving the rites of the church. And [the jurors say] that no one was to blame for his death. The first finder was John Butcher, William's servant, and he was mainprised by Henry Dawe and William Lock.

. . . . .

John Bristow of Salisbury, webber, came into the city of Salisbury on Saturday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Ambrose in the fifth year of King Richard the Second, and in the presence of the said coroners appealed John Down, who was then present and who had been arrested with the mainour mentioned below, for that on Thursday<sup>2</sup> of Easter week in the said year the said John Down had feloniously stolen from the said John Bristow at Salisbury two coverlets worth 6s. 8d., two sheets worth 2s., a carpet worth 6d., a towel worth 6d., a curtain of thread<sup>3</sup> worth 4d., and a blanket worth 6d. By reason of this appeal and at the suit of the said John Bristow, the case being continued, [the accused] was convicted of the said felony at Salisbury before John Gowen, bailiff of the liberty of the bishop of Salisbury, and was hanged. He had no goods or chattels.

. . . . .

#### ROLL OF THE RECORD OF THOMAS BOWYER AND WILLIAM GODMANSTONE, THE KING'S CORONERS IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY.

Inquest was taken at Salisbury on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the sixth year of King Richard the

<sup>1</sup> April 5, 1382.

<sup>2</sup> Easter Day fell on April 6; the goods seem to have been stolen on the preceding Thursday.

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps *velamen* means a veil or a bed-covering of some kind. See Diefenbach, *Glossarium*, s. v.

<sup>4</sup> June 15, 1383.

De morte  
Thome  
Caldecote  
couke

questum sexto coram Thoma Bowiere et Willelmo Godmanstone coronatoribus domini regis in civitate Nove Sar' de morte Thome Caldecote couke corpore presenti per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> liberorum juratorum et Ricardi Juwel aldr' de Novo Vico et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldr', Johannis Fraunkeleyn aldr' de Foro et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldr', Thome Casteltone aldr' de Sancto Martino et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldr', Johannis Baret aldr' de Prato et quatuor hominum vicinorum ejusdem aldr'. Qui omnes jurati dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Stephanus Skynnere de Drewesteyntone venit in civitate Nove Sar' nocte diei Dominice prox' post festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli post quarterium noctis predicte anno regni regis Ricardi post conquestum sexto et insultum fecit predicto Thome Caldecote et cum uno cultello vocato daggere ipsum Thomam in guttere<sup>2</sup> felonice percussit per quod statim obiit absque juribus ecclesiasticis, et quod nullus est causa mortis predicti Thome preter dictum Stephanum qui statim fugit post factum per quod capi seu arestari non potuit, et quod idem Stephanus nulla habuit bona seu catalla. Et primus inventor fuit Willelmus Rodyng qui manucaptus est per Willelmum Lug, Simonem Berde.

Stephanus  
Skynnere

. . . . .

Convictus

Johannes Beneyt vicesimo secundo die mensis Januarii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum septimo [venit] coram Thoma et Willelmo coronatoribus predictis et appellavit Willelmum Thorn, Thomam Mortone de Lambythe et Nicholaum Bultone qui capti fuerunt cum manuopere subscripto et in custodia Johannis Goweyn ballivi libertatis episcopi Sar' de Nova Sar' commissi quod ipsi . . .

Will' Thorn,  
Thom' Mor-  
tone, Nich'  
Bultone

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

Second before Thomas Bowyer and William Godmanstone, the king's coroners in the city of Salisbury, concerning the death of Thomas Caldecote, cook, on view of his body, by the oath of [twelve men] free jurors, and of Richard Jewel alderman of New Street and four neighbours of that ward, John Franklin alderman of Market [ward] and four neighbours of that ward, Thomas Castleton alderman of St. Martin's and four neighbours of that ward, John Barrett alderman of Mead and four neighbours of that ward. All of them, having been sworn, say on their oath that after the [first] quarter of the night of Sunday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the sixth year of King Richard the Second, Stephen Skinner of Drewsteignton came to the city of Salisbury, and assaulted the said Thomas Caldecote, feloniously striking him in the throat with a knife called a dagger, from which blow he died forthwith without the rites of the church. And [they say] that no one was to blame for his death except the said Stephen, who fled forthwith after the act, so that he could not be arrested; and that he had no goods or chattels. The first finder was William Roding, who was mainprised by William Lug and Simon Beard.

. . . . .

John Benet came before the said coroners, Thomas and William, on the twenty-second day of January in the seventh year of King Richard the Second, and appealed William Thorn, Thomas Morton of Lambeth, and Nicholas Boulton, who had been arrested with the mainour mentioned below, and had been placed in charge of John Gowen, bailiff of the liberty of the bishop of Salisbury in Salisbury, for that [on the twenty-first of January, 1384, they had stolen various articles belonging to John Benet. Their chattels were worth 13s. 4*l*. John found two sureties to prosecute the case. The accused were afterwards convicted before William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, and his colleagues, keepers of the peace in Wilts.<sup>1</sup>]

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> The record does not state why the case was brought before the justices of the peace. The stolen property was worth 29s. 5½*l*.

[WILTSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

## CORONATOR' BURGI ET LIBERTATIS DE DEVYSES.

. . . . .

Devyses

Inquisicio capta apud Devyses de morte Margerie Sadeler super visu corporis ejus coram Waltero Porter coronatore domini regis in comitatu Wiltes' infra libertatem de Devyses die Dominica prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum septimo per sacramentum. . .<sup>2</sup> Qui jur' dicunt per sacramentum suum quod accidit apud Devyses die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno supradicto circa horam ignitegii quod predicta Margeria venit transiens per quodam<sup>3</sup> fossatum vocatum Denyngesdyche plenum aque et morbo caduco sibi subito superveniente per infortunium cecidit in predictum fossatum in quo statim submersa fuit. Primus inventor ejus Johannes Shephurd hutesium levavit,<sup>4</sup> invenit plegios videlicet Johannem Lupyzat et Johannem Ody.

Vicini { Johannes Peyntur  
Henricus Webbe  
Willelmus Londone  
Willelmus Covyntre } manucapti per villatam de Devyses.

[WORCESTERSHIRE.<sup>5</sup>]

. . . . .

Simon Hale  
junior,  
Ricardus  
frater ejus  
attachiati<sup>7</sup>

Inquisicio capta die Lune prox' post clausum Pasche apud Powyke coram supradicto Johanne Bradewelle anno xiiij<sup>o</sup> supradicto super visu corporis Walteri Jaunes per sacramentum . . .<sup>6</sup> de villatis de villata de Powyke predicta, Clyvelode, Wordesfelde et Newlond. Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod die Sabbati in septimana Pasche anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xiiij<sup>o</sup> venerunt apud Powyke Symon Hale junior et Ricardus frater ejus et ibidem inter-

<sup>1</sup> Roll 205, one small membrane, 6-7 Rich. II., containing three inquests by twelve men of Devizes.

<sup>2</sup> Twelve names. <sup>3</sup> *Sic.* <sup>4</sup> MS. *hut' lev'.*

<sup>5</sup> Roll 206, two membranes, 13-18 Rich. II.; eight inquests before John Bradwell

by twelve jurors, generally of four or three vills (in one case no vills are mentioned). Endorsement: 'p rotul' Joh' Bradewelle unius coronatorum domini regis com' Wygorn'.

<sup>6</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>7</sup> MS. *att'.*

## [WILTSHIRE.]

CORONER<sup>1</sup> OF THE BOROUGH AND LIBERTY OF DEVIZES.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at Devizes concerning the death of Margery Saddler, on view of her body, before Walter Porter, the king's coroner in the liberty of Devizes, in the county of Wilts, on Sunday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. James the Apostle in the seventh year of King Richard the Second, by the oath [of twelve jurors]. Having been sworn, they say on their oath that it happened at Devizes about the hour of curfew, on Friday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. James the Apostle in the said year, that the said Margery was crossing a certain ditch called Denningsditch, which was filled with water, when she was suddenly stricken with the falling sickness, and, falling into the said ditch by misadventure, was drowned forthwith. The first finder, John Shepherd, raised the hue and produced pledges, John Lupyzat and John Ody.

|            |  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Neighbours | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{John Painter} \\ \text{Henry Webb} \\ \text{William London} \\ \text{William Coventry} \end{array} \right\}$ | were mainprised by the township<br>of Devizes. |
|------------|--|--|

## [WORCESTERSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Inquest was taken before the said John Bradwell at Powick on Monday<sup>4</sup> next after the close of Easter in the said thirteenth year, on view of the body of Walter Janes, by the oath of [twelve jurors] of the townships of Powick, Clevelode, Woodsfield, and Newland. They say on their oath that on Saturday<sup>5</sup> of Easter week in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second, Simon Hale junior and his brother Richard came to Powick, and there lay in wait and feloniously slew

<sup>1</sup> *Coronator*<sup>7</sup> seems to stand for *coronators*, but only one coroner is mentioned in the roll.

<sup>2</sup> July 26, 1383.

<sup>3</sup> July 24.

<sup>4</sup> April 11, 1390.

<sup>5</sup> April 9.



Joh' Squyre  
de Severne-  
stoke

<sup>2</sup> viij. d.<sup>2</sup>

fecerunt felonice Walterum Jaunes jacentes in insidio,<sup>1</sup> qui quidem Simon percussit dictum Walterum in capite cum uno billo precii vj. d. et predictus Ricardus fregit dorsum suum cum j. baculo precii ij. d. unde villata de Poywyk oneratur. Inventor nullus quia habuit jura ecclesiastica. Item dicunt quod Johannes Squyere de Severnestoke cepit dictos Symonem et Ricardum in domum suam ibidem eadem nocte sciens bene quod felonice interfecerunt<sup>3</sup> dictum Walterum, et se retraxerunt et quod catalla nulla.

. . . . .

Meredythe  
Walssheman

<sup>4</sup> iiij. d.<sup>9</sup>

Inquisicio capta die Lune in septimana Pentecostes anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum xvj<sup>o</sup> coram predicto Johanne Bradewelle apud Seynt Jones Worcest<sup>r</sup> super visu corporis Jevan<sup>4</sup> Dewe Wallici<sup>5</sup> per sacramentum . . .<sup>6</sup> de villatis de Wyke Sapy, Wyk Episcopi et Bottone proximorum<sup>7</sup> vill' circumquaque. Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod die Sabbati in vigilia Pentecostes anno regni regis Ricardi secundi xvj<sup>o</sup> quod unus Wallicus vocatus Meredythe ininsidiater<sup>8</sup> et felonice interfecit unum alterum Wallicum vocatum Jevan<sup>4</sup> Drewe in vico Sancti Johannis Worcest<sup>r</sup> cum j. daggare precii iiij. d. unde villata Sancti Johannis Wyrestr<sup>r</sup> respondebit, et se retraxit. Catalla nulla. Inventor corporis Rogerus Heywode.

Q<sup>9</sup>.<sup>10</sup> Felonia.  
Joh' Neode  
de Males-  
feld, Joh'  
Carpenter de  
Clyvelode

Inquisicio capta apud Bedewardyn juxta Wygorn' die Martis prox' post festum Exaltacionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum decimo octavo super visu corporis Thome Dawe coram Johanne Bradewelle uno coronatorum domini regis in comitatu Wygorn' per sacramentum . . .<sup>11</sup> Qui dicunt per sacramentum suum . . . Et sciendum est quod predicti Johannes Neode et Johannes Carpenter postea apud Wygorn' coram Johanne de Hulle et Hugone Huls justiciariis domini regis ad gaolam domini regis castri Wygorn' deliberandam assignatis die Veneris in festo Sancte Margarete Virginis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi vicesimo primo de felonia predicta per juratam patrie in quam separati se posuerunt acquietati fuerunt.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *Walm.*

<sup>2-2</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>4</sup> MS. *Jeu<sup>a</sup>.*

<sup>6</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>9-9</sup> Crossed out.

<sup>10</sup> *Quietus* or *Quiti.*

<sup>7</sup> Sic.

<sup>8</sup> Sic.

<sup>11</sup> Twelve names.

Walter Janes ; the said Simon struck Walter on the head with a bill worth six pence, and the said Richard broke his back with a staff worth two pence, which [weapons] are charged to the township of Powick. There is no finder because [Walter] had the rites of the church. They also say that John Squire of Severn Stoke received the said Simon and Richard in his house [at Severn Stoke] on the same night, well knowing that they had killed the said Walter. [And the jurors say] that they fled and had no chattels.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken at St. John's, Worcester, before the said John Bradwell, on Monday<sup>1</sup> (in Whit week in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Jevan Dew, Welshman, by the oath of [twelve jurors] of the townships of Wick Sapey,<sup>2</sup> Wick Episcopi,<sup>3</sup> and Boughton, the nearest vills on every side. They say on their oath that on Saturday the eve of Pentecost in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second a certain Welshman called Meredith insidiously and feloniously killed another Welshman called Jevan Dew in St. John's Street, Worcester, with a dagger worth four pence, for which the township of St. John's, Worcester, will account ; and he fled and had no chattels. The finder of the body was Roger Heywood.

Inquest was taken at Bedwardine, near Worcester, before John Bradwell, one of the king's coroners in the county of Worcester, on Tuesday<sup>4</sup> next after Holy Cross Day in the eighteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Thomas Dawe, by the oath of [twelve jurors]. They say on their oath [that John Neode and John Carpenter lay in wait and slew Thomas Dawe. Neode had no chattels ; Carpenter had chattels worth forty shillings. Both were at at once arrested, and taken to the gaol in the castle of Worcester.] And be it known that afterwards at Worcester, on Friday<sup>5</sup> the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin in the twenty-first year of King Richard the Second, the said John Neode and John Carpenter separately placed themselves on a jury of the country and were acquitted of the said felony before John of Hull and Hugh Huls, royal justices assigned to deliver the king's gaol in the castle of Worcester.

<sup>1</sup> May 26, 1393.

<sup>3</sup> Lower Wick.

<sup>2</sup> This seems to be the present Upper Wick.

<sup>4</sup> Sept. 15, 1394.

<sup>5</sup> July 20, 1397.

[YORKSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1      **Adhuc de indictatis coram prefato Ricardo de Hotone coronatore**  
Edw. iij.      **in Northr' de anno xxij.**

Bark'      Henricus filius Henrici Sampsoni indictatus coram prefato corona-  
tore de morte Willelmi filii Roberti Tighler de Cawod die Jovis in  
vigilia Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno xxij. apud Appeltone Fauconbergg  
Catalla nulla felonice interfecti. Catalla ejus nulla.

Stayn'      Adam filius Rogeri de Draghtone indictatus coram prefato corona-  
tore de morte Johannis filii Roberti de Draghtone die Mercurii prox'  
post festum Sancti Petri Advincula anno xxij. apud Draghtone  
Catalla nulla felonice interfecti. Catalla ejus nulla.

Osg'      Willelmus de Derby carnifex nuper garcio Roberti de Byrone  
magistri scholarum de Farburne juxta Brothertone indictatus coram  
prefato coronatore de morte Ricardi Ewe de Darthyngtone die Do-  
minica in festo Sancte Margarete anno xxij. apud Darthyngtone  
Catalla nulla felonice interfecti. Catalla nulla.

Herthill'      Galfridus Danyel indictatus coram prefato coronatore de morte  
Roberti de Skyren die Dominica prox' post festum Sancti Bartholomei  
Catalla nulla Apostoli anno xxij. apud Besewyke felonice interfecti. Catalla ejus  
nulla.

Herthill'      Johannes filius Stephani molendinarii de Ettone indictatus coram  
prefato coronatore de morte Willelmi filii Thome Smythe de Ettone  
die Dominica prox' post festum Decollacionis Sancti Johannis Bap-  
tiste anno xxij. apud Raventhorpe felonice interfecti. Catalla ejus  
Catalla nulla nulla.

<sup>1</sup> Roll 213, ten membranes, 18-22 Edw. III., containing indictments before the coroner.

## [YORKSHIRE.]

**Continuation of the Indictments before the aforesaid Richard of Hoton, Coroner in the North Riding,<sup>1</sup> for the Twenty-second Year.**

[Wapentake  
of] Barkston  
Ash

Henry, son of Henry Sampson, was indicted before the said coroner for the death of William, son of Robert Tiler of Cawood, who was feloniously slain at Appleton Falconberg<sup>2</sup> on Thursday<sup>3</sup> the eve of St. James the Apostle in the twenty-second year. He [Henry] had no chattels.

Staincliffe

Adam, son of Roger of Draughton, was indicted before the said coroner for the death of John, son of Robert of Draughton, who was feloniously slain at Draughton on Wednesday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of St. Peter's Chains in the twenty-second year. He [Adam] had no chattels.

Osgoldcross

William of Derby, butcher, recently the servant of Robert de Biron, master of the schools at Fairburn near Brotherton, was indicted before the said coroner for the death of Richard Ewe of Darrington, who was feloniously slain at Darrington on Sunday<sup>5</sup> the feast of St. Margaret in the twenty-second year. No chattels.

Harthill

Geoffrey Daniel was indicted before the said coroner for the death of Robert of Skerne, who was feloniously slain at Beswick on Sunday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle in the twenty-second year. He had no chattels.

Harthill

John, son of Stephen Miller of Etton, was indicted before the said coroner for the death of William, son of Thomas Smith of Etton, who was feloniously slain at Raventhorpe<sup>7</sup> on Sunday<sup>8</sup> next after the feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist in the twenty-second year. He had no chattels.

<sup>1</sup> The wapentakes mentioned in the extracts given below are in the East and West Ridings.

<sup>2</sup> Appleton Nun.

<sup>3</sup> July 24, 1348.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 6, 1348.

<sup>5</sup> July 20, 1348.

<sup>6</sup> Aug. 31, 1348.

<sup>7</sup> This place is no longer in existence; the site is marked on the map of the Ordnance Survey.

<sup>8</sup> Aug. 31, 1348.

De indictatis coram Marmadeco Darelle uno coronatorum comitatus Ebor' in Northr' post sessionem Willelmi Scote ab anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xviiij. usque crastinum Animarum anno ejusdem domini regis xxij. Sequitur de indictatis coram prefato coronatore de anno xviiij.

. . . . .

# [YORKSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 1

ROTULI CORONATORUM CIVITATIS EBOR' DE TEMPORE THOME DE LINCOLN', WILLELMI FERROUR ET RICARDI DE RAYSEBEKE ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI TERCII VICESIMO TERCIO.—DE TEMPORE WILLELMI WELLE, ROBERTI DE LINDESAY ET THOME POTTERE TUNC BALLIVORUM CIVITATIS EBOR'.

Casus

Johannes de Hoghtone captus per mandatum Thome de Rokeby pro diversis latrociniis unde coram ipso vicecomite indictatus est obiit in prisona civitatis Ebor' die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Petri Advincula anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum vicesimo tercio morte sua naturali et non violenta prout quatuor parochie civitatis Ebor' super visu corporis predicti Johannis coram Thoma de Lincoln' coronatore et sociis suis dicte civitatis presentant per sacramentum suum. Et idem Johannes sepultus est in cimiterio ecclesie Sancti Johannis Ewangeliste ad pontem Use.

. . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Casus

Nicholaus de Appelby captus et detentus in prisona civitatis Ebor' per retornum ejusdam brevis domini regis ballivis dicte civitatis Ebor' per Thomam de Rokeby vicecomitem Ebor' directi et coram justiciariis domini regis apud Westm' a die Sancti Michaelis in unum mensem ultimo preterito retornati, quousque satisfecerit Willelmo de Swurnetone de viginti libris juxta formam statuti apud Actone Burnelle pro mercatoribus edieti, obiit in dicta prisona die Veneris prox' post festum Assumpeionis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxiiij<sup>o</sup> morte sua naturali et non violenta prout quatuor parochie dicte civitatis propinquiores dicte

<sup>1</sup> Roll 215, forty-two membranes, 23-36 Edw. III. Mem. 1-10, inquests and presentments in the city of York by four parishes; mem. 11-40, 'placita corone' (presentments, exigents, etc.), like the cases

in Roll 218.

<sup>2</sup> Another case like the preceding, concerning William Pigg, who died in prison on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1349.



Indictments before Marmaduke Darell, one of the Coroners of Yorkshire, in the North Riding, after the session of William Scott,<sup>1</sup> from the eighteenth year of King Edward the Third to the morrow of All Souls in the twenty-second year of the said king.<sup>2</sup> The indictments before the said coroner for the eighteenth year are as follows.

. . . . .

### [YORKSHIRE.]

ROLLS OF THE CORONERS OF THE CITY OF YORK IN THE TIME OF THOMAS OF LINCOLN, WILLIAM FERROUR, AND RICHARD OF RAYSEBECK IN THE TWENTY-THIRD YEAR OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD, WHEN WILLIAM WELL, ROBERT OF LINDSEY, AND THOMAS POTTER WERE BAILIFFS OF THE CITY OF YORK.

John of Houghton, who had been arrested by order of Thomas of Rokeby for various larcenies whereof he had been indicted before that sheriff, died a natural and not a violent death in the prison of the city of York on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. Peter's Chains in the twenty-third year of King Edward the Third, as four parishes of the said city present on their oath, on view of John's body, before Thomas of Lincoln and his fellows, coroners of the said city. And the said John was buried in the cemetery of the church of St. John the Evangelist at Ouse-Bridge.

. . . . .

Nicholas of Appleby was arrested and detained in the prison of the city of York by the return of a certain writ of the lord king, sent to the bailiffs of that city by Thomas of Rokeby, sheriff of Yorkshire, and returned before the king's justices at Westminster one month after last Michaelmas,<sup>4</sup> until he should make satisfaction to William of Swurnton for twenty pounds, in accordance with the form of the Statute of Merchants enacted at Acton Burnell; and he [Nicholas] died in the said prison a natural and not a violent death on Friday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the twenty-third year of King Edward the Third, as the four parishes

<sup>1</sup> This probably refers to a session of the king's justices in Yorkshire; and the person here referred to was seemingly William Scott, one of the justices of the King's Bench, 13-20 Edw. III. Cf. Foss, *Judges*, iii. 493. Assize Roll 1128 is headed 'Placita

de transgressionibus, etc., coram W. Scot et aliis' (Yorkshire, 17 Edw. III.): List of Plea Rolls, 164.

<sup>2</sup> From 1344 to Nov. 3, 1348.

<sup>3</sup> Aug. 3, 1349.

<sup>4</sup> Sept. 29, 1348.

<sup>5</sup> Aug. 21, 1349.

gaole super visu corporis predicti Nicholai coram Thoma de Lincoln' coronatore et sociis suis dicte civitatis presentant per sacramentum suum. Et idem Nicholaus sepultus est in ecclesia Sancti Martini in Conyngstrete in Ebor'.

Casus

Quatuor parochie civitatis Ebor' videlicet Omnium Sanctorum super le Pavemente, Sancte Marie in Castlegate, Sancti Michaelis juxta pontem Use, Sancti Petri Parvi super visu corporis Willelmi le Nedlere inventi mortui presentant et dicunt per sacramentum suum quod obiit morte sua naturali causa pestilencie et non violenta in Coppergate in Ebor' die Veneris prox' post festum Advincula Sancti Petri anno supradicto. Visus et sepultus per coronator' civitatis Ebor'. Inventor Johannes Raa. Plegii Johannes Hare, Willelmus Bridd.

Casus

Johannes de Latone masone captus et indictatus coram Willelmo Welle et sociis suis tunc ballivis civitatis Ebor' de latrociniiis obiit in priona dicte civitatis morte sua naturali et non violenta die Sabbati prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi tereii xxij<sup>o</sup> prout quatuor parochie dicte civitatis propinquiores dicte gaole presentant et dicunt super sacramentum suum. Et idem Johannes visus et sepultus per coronator' dicte civitatis.

Felonia

<sup>2</sup> j. d.<sup>3</sup>

Inquisicio capta coram coronatoribus<sup>1</sup> civitatis Ebor' de morte Willelmi le Yonge interfecti apud Ebor' in crepusculo noctis die Dominica prox' post festum Assumpcionis Beate Marie Virginis anno supradicto per quatuor parochias propinquiores videlicet Beate Marie Veteris, Beate Marie le Bisshope, Sancti Martini in Mekilgate et Sancti Clementis in Clementhorpe juratas, qui<sup>2</sup> dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Robertus de Berne predictum Willelmum felonice interfecit apud Ebor' die supradicto cum quodam cultello qui vocatur daggere precii j. d. Et predictus Robertus statim fugit. Catalla prefati Roberti nulla infra libertatem civitatis Ebor'. Visus et sepultus per Thomam de Lincoln' coronatorem.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> MS. *coronator*'.<sup>2</sup> *Sic*.<sup>3-3</sup> Crossed out.

of the said city nearest the said gaol present on their oath, on view of the body of the said Nicholas, before Thomas of Lincoln and his fellows, coroners of that city. And the said Nicholas was buried in the church of St. Martin in Coning Street, York.

Four parishes of the city of York, to wit, All Saints in the Pavement, St. Mary Castlegate, St. Michael Ouse-Bridge, St. Peter the Little, on view of the body of William Needler who was found dead, present and say on their oath that he died a natural and not a violent death, by reason of the pestilence, in Coppergate, York, on Friday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Peter's Chains in the aforesaid year. He was viewed and buried by the coroners of the city of York. The finder was John Raa, whose pledges were John Hare and William Bird.

John of Layton, mason, who had been arrested and indicted for larcenies before William Well and his colleagues, the then bailiffs of the city of York, died in the prison of that city a natural and not a violent death on Saturday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the twenty-third year of King Edward the Third, as the four parishes of the said city nearest the said gaol present and say on their oath. And the said John was viewed and buried by the coroners of the said city.

Inquest was taken before the coroners of the city of York concerning the death of William Yonge, slain in York at twilight on the evening of Sunday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the aforesaid year, by four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Mary [Bishopshill] Senior, St. Mary Bishopshill [Junior], St. Martin Micklegate, and St. Clement Clementhorpe (sworn); they say on their oath that on the said day Robert of Berne feloniously slew the said William at York with a certain knife called a dagger, worth a penny. Robert fled forthwith, and had no chattels within the liberty of the city of York. [William] was viewed and buried by Thomas of Lincoln, the coroner.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 7, 1349.

<sup>2</sup> Aug. 22, 1349.

<sup>3</sup> Aug. 16, 1349.

Mem. 41

## HOLDERNESSE.

ROTULUS WILLELMI DE FROTHYNHAM BALLIVI LIBERTATIS DE  
HOLDERNESSE DE INDICTAMENTIS IN TURNIS SUIS TURNUM  
VICECOMITIS TANGENTIBUS A FESTO SANCTI MICHAELIS ANNO  
REGNI REGIS EDWARDI TERCII POST CONQUESTUM XXXV<sup>to</sup>  
USQUE FESTUM NATIVITATIS SANCTI JOHANNIS BAPTISTE  
TUNC PROX' SEQUENS.

Kayngham

Inquisicio capta apud Kayngham die Mercurii prox' ante festum  
Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post  
conquestum xxxv<sup>to</sup> coram Willelmo de Frothyngnam ballivo libertatis  
de Holdernes in turno suo de diversis articulis turnum vicecomitis  
tangentibus per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> juratorum. Qui omnes jurati  
dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Nicholaus Cokes milner die Jovis  
prox' ante festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis  
Edwardi nunc xxiij<sup>do</sup> apud Rosse felonice interfecit Robertum Smythie  
de Eluardby.

Item dicunt quod Robertus Turnur de Hedone die Sabbati in  
vigilia Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxxv<sup>to</sup>  
apud Prestone felonice interfecit Adam de Helm' boller.

Item dicunt quod Willelmus de Wayneftet' tynkeler felonice rapuit  
Adam uxorem Johannis Milner apud Holeyn die Mercurii prox' ante  
festum Sancte Trinitatis anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxxv<sup>to</sup> et  
ipsam violavit invitam ita quod infra triduum deliberata fuit de  
quodam puero masculo mortuo.

Item dicunt quod Matill' Bochard die Lune prox' post festum  
Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi nunc  
xxxv<sup>to</sup> apud Wellwyke Thorpe furatus<sup>2</sup> fuit ij. quarteria frumenti  
et ij. quarteria ordeï Johannis Tennysone de Wellwyke Thorpe precii  
xiiij. s. iiij. d.

<sup>2</sup> x' ij. s.  
iiij. d.

E-str'

Item dicunt quod Thomas<sup>4</sup> Harpur de Arnall' die Jovis prox' post  
festum Sancte Margarete Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi nunc  
xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> apud Routh' noctanter burgavit domum Nigelli Walraven et  
inde furtive cepit et asportavit quadraginta solidos in denariis nume-  
ratis ipsius Nigelli.

Attachiatus<sup>5</sup>

Item dicunt quod Johannes Sayme de Beford felonice receptavit  
dictum Thomam Harpur post dictam feloniam factam sciens ipsum  
Thomam dictam burgariam fecisse et bona et catalla ipsius Thome

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names. <sup>2</sup> Sic. <sup>3-3</sup> Crossed out.<sup>4</sup> In the Roll *po* is written over this  
name; perhaps it means that he placedhimself on a jury of the country, 'ponit se  
super patriam.'<sup>5</sup> MS. *att'*.

## HOLDERNESS.

ROLL OF WILLIAM OF FROTHINGHAM, BAILIFF OF THE LIBERTY OF HOLDERNESS, CONCERNING INDICTMENTS IN HIS TOURNS COMPRISING THOSE OF THE SHERIFF'S TOURN, FROM MICHAELMAS IN THE THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD TO THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NEXT FOLLOWING.<sup>1</sup>

Keyingham

Inquest was taken at Keyingham on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third before William of Frothingham, bailiff of the liberty of Holderness, concerning various articles in his tourn comprising those of the sheriff's tourn, by the oath of [twelve] jurors. And having been sworn, they all say on their oath that on Thursday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the twenty-second year of King Edward Nicholas Cokes, miller, feloniously slew Robert Smith of Elwardby at Rooss.

They also say that on Saturday<sup>4</sup> the eve of St. James the Apostle in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward Robert Turner of Hedon feloniously slew Adam of Helme, bowler,<sup>5</sup> at Preston.

They also say that on Wednesday<sup>6</sup> next before the Holy Trinity in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward William of Wainfleet, tinker, raped Ada, wife of John Milner, at Hollym, and violated her against her will, so that within three days she was delivered of a dead male child.

They also say that on Monday<sup>7</sup> next after the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward Maud Bochard stole at Welwick two quarters of corn and two quarters of barley worth 13s. 4d. belonging to John Tennyson of Welwick.

East Riding

They also say that on the night of Thursday<sup>8</sup> next after the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin in the thirty-third year of King Edward Thomas Harper of Arnold committed burglary at Routh in the house of Nigel Walraven, and furtively took therefrom and carried away forty shillings in coined money belonging to the said Nigel.

They also say that John Sayme of Beeford feloniously harboured the said Thomas Harper after the commission of the said felony, knowing that Thomas had committed that burglary, and on the night

<sup>1</sup> From Sept. 29, 1361, to June 24, 1362.

<sup>2</sup> Oct. 27, 1361.

<sup>4</sup> July 24, 1361.

<sup>3</sup> June 19, 1348.

<sup>5</sup> See Murray's *New English Dict.* s.v. 'boller.'

<sup>6</sup> May 19, 1361.

<sup>7</sup> June 28, 1361.

<sup>8</sup> July 25, 1359.



Harpur ad valenciam decem librarum noctanter abduxit die et anno predietis.

Item dicunt quod Johannes Sergeante nuper serviens Ricardi de Sancto Quintino die Jovis prox' post festum Invencionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxxv<sup>to</sup> apud Cletone furatus fuit duos equos domine Isabelle filie Edwardi regis Anglie precii xl. s.

Brandes-  
burtone

Inquisicio capta apud Brandesburtone die Lune prox' post festum Invencionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxvj<sup>to</sup> coram prefato Willelmo de Frothyngham ballivo libertatis de Holdernesse de diversis articulis in turno suo turnum vicecomitis tangentibus per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> juratorum. Qui omnes jurati dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Thomas de Hale de Beford et Robertus Stoute de eadem die Lune prox' post festum Assencionis Domini anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxvii<sup>o</sup> apud Beford felonice interfecerunt Ricardum Wyvet' de Bostone chapman et corpus ejus elongaverunt in secreto et bona et catalla ipsius Ricardi ad valenciam xx. li. ibidem inventa ceperunt et asportaverunt.

Item dicunt quod Thomas filius Hugonis Clerici de Bernstone die Lune prox' ante festum Pasche anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxxvj<sup>to</sup> apud Bernstone furatus fuit unum equum domini Willelmi de Bostone persone ecclesie de Bernstone precii x. s.

Elstanwyk

Inquisicio capta apud Elstanwyk die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Luce Evangeliste anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxv<sup>to</sup> coram Willelmo de Frothyngham ballivo libertatis de Holdernesse de diversis articulis in turno suo turnum vicecomitis tangentibus per sacramentum . . .<sup>2</sup> juratorum. Qui omnes jurati dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Willelmus filius Ricardi filii Martini de Tunstalle die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Jacobi Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xxxiii<sup>to</sup> apud Tunstalle furatus fuit unum equum Ade German de Tunstalle precii viij. s.

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.

of the said day in the said year [John] carried away goods and chattels of the said Thomas to the value of ten pounds.

They also say that on Thursday<sup>1</sup> next after the Invention of the Holy Cross in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward John Sergeant, recently servant of Richard of St. Quintin, stole two horses at Clayton, worth forty shillings, belonging to Lady Isabel, daughter of Edward, king of England.

Brandesbur-  
ton

Inquest was taken at Brandesburton on Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the Invention of the Holy Cross in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward the Third before the aforesaid William of Frothingham, bailiff of the liberty of Holderness, concerning various articles in his tourn comprising those of the sheriff's tourn, by the oath of [twelve] jurors. And having been sworn, they all say on their oath that on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after Ascension Day in the twenty-eighth year of King Edward Thomas of Hale and Robert Stout, both of Beeford, feloniously slew Richard Wivet of Boston, chapman, at Beeford, and secretly removed his body, and seized and carried away his goods and chattels found there to the value of twenty pounds.

They also say that on Monday<sup>4</sup> next before Easter Day in the thirty-sixth year of King Edward Thomas, son of Hugh Clerk of Burniston, stole a horse at Burniston, worth ten shillings, belonging to Sir William of Boston, parson of the church of Burniston.

Elsternwick

Inquest was taken at Elsternwick on Thursday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third before William of Frothingham, bailiff of the liberty of Holderness, concerning divers articles in his tourn comprising those of the sheriff's tourn, by the oath of [twelve] jurors. And having been sworn, they all say on their oath that on Tuesday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. James the Apostle in the thirty-fourth year of King Edward William, son of Richard, son of Martin of Tunstall, stole a horse at Tunstall worth eight shillings belonging to Adam German of Tunstall.

<sup>1</sup> May 6, 1361.

<sup>2</sup> May 9, 1362.

<sup>3</sup> May 26, 1354.

<sup>4</sup> April 11, 1362.

<sup>5</sup> Oct. 21, 1361.

<sup>6</sup> July 28, 1360.

Mem. 42

ROTULUS WILLELMI DE FROTHYNGHAM CORONATORIS LIBERTATIS DE HOLDERNESSE A FESTO SANCTI MICHAELIS ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI TERCII POST CONQUESTUM XXXV<sup>to</sup> USQUE DIEM LUNE PROX' POST FESTUM NATIVITATIS SANCTI JOHANNIS BAPTISTE PROX' SEQUENS.

Infortunia Holdernessie de anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum videlicet Anglie xxxv<sup>to</sup>.

Swyne

Inquisicio capta apud Swyne die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxv<sup>to</sup> coram Willelmo de Frothyngham coronatore libertatis de Holdernessie de morte Thome de Colthorpe forestarii de Swyne per sacramentum . . .<sup>1</sup> juratorum et per villatas de Swyne, Conyngstone, Gaghensted et Benyngholme juratas. Qui omnes jurati dicunt. . . .

. . . . .

# [YORKSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

. . . . .

Mem. 9

Placita corone com' Ebor' tent' ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Sanctorum Tiburcii et Valeriani anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum tricesimo octavo<sup>3</sup> tempore Thome de Musgrave vicecomitis Ebor' et Willelmi de Lackenby coronatoris.

Exigi facias Johannem de Leek de Pokelyngtone de comitatu, etc. Et quod habeas corpus ejus coram justiciariis, etc. apud Westm' a die Sancte Trinitatis in xv. dies ad respondendum Roberto de Lyll yng' de

iiij. et non<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 218, fifty-eight membranes, 36-48 Edw. III.; most of the entries are presentments in the county court by four vills 'una cum xij. hominibus,' in some cases by a single vill 'que respondet per xij. videlicet.'

Besides these presentments there are some appeals and abjurations, and many exigents.

<sup>3</sup> Probably this should be *nono*; perhaps, however, the rubric applies only to the first case.

<sup>4</sup> Four exigents, and he did not come.

ROLL OF WILLIAM OF FROTHINGHAM, CORONER OF THE LIBERTY OF HOLDERNESS,<sup>1</sup> FROM MICHAELMAS IN THE THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD TO MONDAY NEXT AFTER THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NEXT FOLLOWING.<sup>2</sup>

**Misadventures in Holderness in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third.**

Swine

Inquest was held at Swine on Wednesday<sup>3</sup> next after Michaelmas in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward the Third before William of Frothingham, coroner of the liberty of Holderness, concerning the death of Thomas of Calthorpe, forester of Swine, by the oath of [twelve] jurors and by the townships of Swine, Coniston, Ganstead, and Benningholme (sworn). And having been sworn, they all say [that on the preceding Monday Robert Skinner struck the said Thomas a mortal blow with a knife, and fled, taking the knife with him. He had in chattels two pigs worth twenty pence, for which Swine will account. Being asked if anyone abetted the said felony, they say, No. Thomas was buried by the said coroner.]

. . . . .

# [YORKSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Pleas of the crown of the county of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of Saints Tiburtius and Valerian in the [thirty-ninth] year of King Edward the Third, when Thomas of Musgrave was sheriff of Yorkshire and when William of Lackenby was coroner.

Cause John of Leek of Pocklington to be exacted from county court [to county court], etc., and have his body before the justices, etc. at Westminster in the quindene of the Holy Trinity to answer Robert of Lillings in a suit for the payment of ten pounds which he owes

<sup>1</sup> According to *Placita de quo War-ranto*, i. 106, the wapentake of Holderness had been held at fee-farm of the king by the ancestors of Aveline, wife of Edmund Crouchback; 'et in predicta serjancia solebant antecessores Aveline habere quemdam ballivum qui habuit officium et potestatem coronatoris per totum Holdernesne.' Ave-

line was the daughter of William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarle. According to Allen's *County of York*, iv. 194, the king granted Holderness to William de la Pole in 1338, who surrendered it to the crown in 1358. Cf. *Cal. Rot. Orig.* ii. 238, 289.

<sup>2</sup> From Sept. 29, 1361, to June 27, 1362.

<sup>3</sup> Oct. 6, 1361.

<sup>4</sup> April 21, 1365.

placito quod reddat ei decem libras quas ei debet, etc. Teste R. de Thorpe apud Westm' xx. die Octobris anno xxxvij. Rotulo<sup>1</sup> ccij.

Exigi facias Willelmum Clerke de Lythe capellanum de com', etc. Et quod habeas corpus ejus coram justiciariis, etc. apud Westm' a die Sancte Trinitatis in xv. dies ad respondendum Johanni Mareschalle de Masham de placito quod reddat ei quadraginta solidos, etc. Et habeas hic hoc breve. Teste R. de Thorpe apud Westm' xxvij. die Octobris anno xxxvij. supradicto. Rotulo<sup>1</sup> cli.

Lang' Gisbur', Hotone, Toucotes et Pynchinthorpe una cum xij. hominibus patrie juratis<sup>2</sup> presentant quod die Jovis prox' ante festum Inventionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxvij. apud Gisbur' Henricus de Middleton cecidit super unum gradum in ecclesia de Gisbur' quo casu predictus Henricus languebat usque ad tereium diem quo obiit. Inventor Johannes Page qui committitur villatis.<sup>3</sup> Visus et sepultus per Willelmum de Lackenby coronatorem.

. . . . .<sup>4</sup>

Mem. 9 dorse Placita corone com' Ebor' tent' ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Augustini anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxvij<sup>o</sup> tempore Thome de Musgrave vicecomitis Ebor' et Willelmi de Lackenby tunc coronatoris ejusdem.

Lang' Middelesburgh', Tollesby, Neuham et Martone una cum xij. hominibus presentant quod die Dominica prox' ante festum Sancti Marci<sup>5</sup> anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxvij. apud Neuham Johannes filius Henrici de Poumfreite de Yarum felonice interfecit Ricardum Milner de Hemlyngtone cum quodam cultello precii j. d. et statim post feloniam factam fugit. Catalla ejus appreciantur ad xvij. d. unde et de cultello villata de Neuham respondebit. Visus et sepultus per W. de Lackenby coronatorem.

Joh' fil'  
Henr' de  
Poumfreyt  
de Yarum

<sup>1</sup> MS. Ro'. Probably the reference is to the Rolls of the Common Pleas. Robert de Thorpe was chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas, 30-45 Edw. III. (Foss, *Judges*, iii. 526).

<sup>2</sup> MS. *jur.* <sup>3</sup> MS. *vill.*

<sup>4</sup> Five presentments by four or five vills and twelve men, regarding murder or accidental death, May-July 1364. In one case thirteen jurors are mentioned. <sup>5</sup> *Sic.*



[Robert], etc.<sup>1</sup> Witness Robert of Thorpe at Westminster on the twentieth day of October in the thirty-seventh year.<sup>2</sup> Roll 202.

Cause William Clerk of Lythe, the chaplain, to be exacted from county court, etc., and have his body before the justices, etc. at Westminster in the quindene of the Holy Trinity to answer John Marshall of Masham in a suit for the payment of forty shillings, etc. And have this writ there. Witness Robert of Thorpe at Westminster on the twenty-eighth day of October in the aforesaid thirty-eighth year.<sup>3</sup> Roll 151.

[Wapentake  
of] Lang-  
baurgh

Guisbrough, Hutton, Tocketts, and Pinchingthorpe with twelve sworn men of the country present that on Thursday<sup>4</sup> next before the Invention of the Holy Cross in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward the Third Henry of Middleton fell upon a step in the church of Guisbrough, by reason of which mishap he languished until the third day [thereafter], and then died. The finder, John Page, was committed to the [aforesaid] townships.<sup>5</sup> [Henry] was viewed and buried by William of Lackenby, the coroner.

. . . . .

Pleas of the crown of the county of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. Augustine in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward the Third, when Thomas of Musgrave was sheriff of Yorkshire and when William of Lackenby was coroner of that county.

Langbaurgh

Middlesbrough, Tolesby, Newham, and Marton with twelve men present that on Sunday<sup>7</sup> next before the feast of St. Mark in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward the Third John, son of Henry of Pontefract of Yarm, feloniously slew Richard Milner of Hemlington at Newham with a knife worth a penny, and fled forthwith after having committed the felony. His chattels are appraised at eighteen pence, for which, as well as for the knife, the township of Newham will account. [Richard] was viewed and buried by William of Lackenby, the coroner.

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 27, for the full wording of a writ similar to this.

<sup>2</sup> 1363.

<sup>3</sup> 1364.

<sup>4</sup> May 2, 1364.

<sup>5</sup> The four townships are responsible for his production when the case is presented before the justices.

<sup>6</sup> May 27, 1364.

<sup>7</sup> April 21, 1364.

Quietus

Willelmus filius Gilberti venit in pleno comitatu Ebor' tento ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Augustini anno<sup>1</sup> regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xxxviii<sup>o</sup> coram Thoma de Musgrave vicecomite Ebor' et Willelmo de Lackenby uno coronatorum comitatus Ebor' et appellat<sup>2</sup> Johannem filium Ade filii Jordani de Northtyndale nuper servientem Johannis de Walewyke de Ulram de eo quod idem Johannes noctanter die Lune prox' post festum Sancte Trinitatis anno supradicto felonice furatus fuit duo jumenta precii xix. s. apud Parvam Wirkesale de predicto Willelmo filio Gilberti. Et hoc offert probare per patriam. Plegii de appello suo prosequendo Johannes filius Willelmi de Parva Wirksale, Willelmus Belle de Parva Wirksale.

Exigi facias Johannem de Habbetone in Ridale de comitatu, etc., quod habeas corpus ejus coram justiciariis, etc. apud Westm' in Octab' Sancti Johannis Baptiste ad respondendum tam nobis<sup>3</sup> Thome de Middleton chivaler<sup>4</sup> de placito transgressionis contra statutum pro operariis editum, etc. Teste R. de Thorpe apud Westm' vij. die Novembris anno xxxvij. Ro' cexlvij. Exactus fuit primo, secundo, tercio et quarto et non comparuit. Et non fuerunt plures comitatus tenti in comitatu Ebor' a die recepcionis hujus brevis ante diem retorni ejusdem.

Exigi facias Johannem Hardy et Ricardum Stuardstone de comitatu, etc. Et quod habeas corpora eorum coram justiciariis, etc. apud Westm' in Octab' Sancti Johannis Baptiste ad respondendum tam nobis quam Thome Fournyvalle chivaler<sup>5</sup> de placito transgressionis contra statutum pro operariis editum, etc. Teste R. de Thorpe apud Westm' xvij. die Octobris anno regni regis xxxvii. Ro' clxxv. Ad comitatum Ebor' tentum ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Nicholai anno supradicto predicti Johannes et Ricardus exacti fuerunt primo et non comparuerunt. Postea secundo, tercio, quarto, et ad istum comitatum exacti fuerunt quinto et non comparuerunt. Ideo in judic' utlagantur.

. . . . .<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> anno is repeated.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *appell*.

<sup>3</sup> Supply *quam* after *nobis*.

<sup>4</sup> Reading doubtful.

<sup>5</sup> MS. *Chf*.

<sup>6</sup> Twenty more entries relating to exigents in the county court follow on mem. 9 d. and mem. 10.

Acquitted

William, Gilbert's son, comes to the full county court of York held [at York] on Monday next after the feast of St. Augustine in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward the Third before Thomas of Musgrave, sheriff of Yorkshire, and William of Lackenby, one of the coroners of that county, and appeals John, son of Adam son of Jordan of North Tindale, recently the servant of John of Walwick<sup>1</sup> of Ulrome, for that on the night of Monday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of the Holy Trinity in the said year the said John feloniously stole two mares worth nineteen shillings, at Little Worsall, from the said William, Gilbert's son. And he offers to prove this by the country. His pledges to prosecute the appeal are John, William's son, and William Bell, both of Little Worsall.

Cause John of Habton in [the wapentake of] Ryedale to be exacted from county court [to county court], etc., and have his body before the justices, etc. at Westminster on the octaves<sup>3</sup> of St. John the Baptist to answer as well to us as to Thomas Middleton, knight, in a plea of trespass against the Statute of Labourers, etc. Witness Robert of Thorpe at Westminster on the seventh day of November in the thirty-seventh year.<sup>4</sup> Roll 247. He was exacted the first, second, third, and fourth time, and did not appear. And no more county courts were held in Yorkshire from the day of the reception of that writ to the day of its return.

Cause to be exacted John Hardy and Richard Stewardson from county court, etc., and have their bodies before the justices, etc. at Westminster on the octaves of St. John the Baptist to answer as well to us as to Thomas Furnivall, knight, in a plea of trespass against the Statute of Labourers, etc. Witness Robert of Thorpe at Westminster on the eighteenth day of October in the thirty-seventh year.<sup>5</sup> Roll 175. At the county court of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. Nicholas in the said year, the said John and Richard were exacted for the first time, and did not appear. Afterwards they were exacted for the second, third, and fourth time, and at this county court for the fifth time, and they did not appear. Therefore by the judgment [of the county court] they are outlawed.

. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> Welwick (?).  
<sup>4</sup> 1363.

<sup>2</sup> May 20, 1364.  
<sup>5</sup> 1363.

<sup>3</sup> July 1, 1364.  
<sup>6</sup> Dec. 11, 1363.

[YORKSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>]

Mem. 13

Johannes  
Lilly et  
Johannes de  
Burghe  
taillours

Inquisicio capta coram Gerardo de Brunneby uno coronatorum civitatis Ebor' die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Edmundi Episcopi anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum 1<sup>mo</sup> super visum corporis Johannis de Thorntone saudleder <sup>2</sup> per iiij<sup>or</sup> parochias scilicet Sancti Michaelis in le Berfray, Sancti . . . <sup>3</sup> Sancti Wilfridi et Sancte Elene per sacramentum . . . <sup>4</sup> juratorum, qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Johannes Lilly et Johannes de Burghe taillours felonice interfecerunt predictum Johannem de Thorntone cum duobus cultellis percuciendo eum in sinistra parte corporis usque ad cor ita quod statim moriebatur. Precium cultell' ij. d. Bona et catalla felonum nulla.

Will' de  
Flasseby

Inquisicio capta coram Gerardo de Brunneby uno coronatorum civitatis Ebor' die Martis in septimana Pentecostes anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum li<sup>o</sup> in theol' super pontem Use jur' <sup>6</sup> per xij. jur' quatuor parochiarum scilicet . . . <sup>7</sup> super visum corporis Johannis de Layburne felonice interfecti. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod cum predictus Johannes de Layburne tanquam subbalivus civitatis Ebor' et minister domini regis die Martis et anno supradictis attachiare voluisset quendam Thomam Hayward per suspicionem latrocinii, et predictus Thomas non permittens predictum Johannem ipsum Thomam attachiare nec ad legem stare set traxit cultellum suum et percussit predictum Johannem de Layburne ministrum domini regis in officio suo faciendo et ipsum felonice sic interfecit. . . .

Adam fil'  
Joh' Smythe

Inquisicio capta coram Ricardo de Raysebek' uno coronatorum civitatis Ebor' die Mercurii prox' post festum Translacionis Sancti Thome Martiris anno regni regis Ricardi secundi primo super visu

<sup>1</sup> Roll 219, thirteen membranes, sewn end to end into one strip. 37 Edw. III.—1 Rich. II., containing inquests in the city of York by twelve men from four parishes.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>3</sup> Blank in the roll.

<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>5</sup> Two inquests held before G. of Burnby by four parishes by the oath of twelve men, April and Sept. 1377.

<sup>6</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

## [YORKSHIRE.]

. . . . .

Inquest was taken before Gerard of Burnby, one of the coroners of the city of York, on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Edmund the Bishop in the fiftieth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of John of Thornton, saddler, by four parishes, to wit, St. Michael-le-Belfrey . . . St. Wilfrid, and St. Helen, by the oath of [twelve] jurors. And they say on their oath that John Lilly and John of Burgh, tailors, feloniously slew the said John of Thornton by striking him with two knives in the left side of his body to the heart, so that he died forthwith. The knives were worth two pence. The felons had no goods and chattels.

. . . . .

Inquest was taken before Gerard of Burnby, one of the coroners of the city of York, on Tuesday<sup>2</sup> of Whit week in the fifty-first year of King Edward the Third, in the tollbooth<sup>3</sup> on Ousebridge, by twelve jurors of four parishes, to wit . . . on view of the body of John of Leyburn, feloniously slain. And they say on their oath that on the said Tuesday of the said year, when the said John of Leyburn, as sub-bailiff of the city of York and officer of the lord king, wished to attach a certain Thomas Hayward on suspicion of larceny, the said Thomas would not allow the said John to attach him, nor would he submit to the law, but, drawing his knife, he struck and feloniously slew the said John, the king's officer, while he was performing his duty. [As Thomas was fleeing toward a church, William of Flasby tried to arrest him. Thomas resisted, and William killed him with a knife in self-defence. William was placed in gaol. One knife was worth two shillings, the other two pence. Thomas had no chattels.]

Inquest was taken before Richard of Raysebeck, one of the coroners of the city of York, on Wednesday<sup>4</sup> next after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr in the first year of King Richard the

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 17, 1376.

<sup>2</sup> May 19, 1377.

<sup>3</sup> This was probably the predecessor of the tollbooth in which assizes were held in

later times. Drake, *Eboracum*, 194, 324; cf. *ibid.* 281, where it is stated that there was formerly a townhall on Ousebridge.

<sup>4</sup> July 8, 1377.



corporis Nicholai Baillif felonice interfecti per xij. juratores<sup>1</sup> quatuor parochiarum videlicet . . .<sup>2</sup> juratos. Presentant quod . . . Catalla ejus nulla. Visus per Ricardum de Raysebek' coronatorem.

Infortunium

Inquisicio capta coram Gerardo de Brunneby uno coronatorum civitatis Ebor' apud Clementhorpe in suburbio Ebor' die Lune prox' post festum Decollacionis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum primo super visu corporis Ricardi de Blencowe per xij. jur' quatuor parochiarum videlicet Philippum Fisscher, Johannem Oter, Robertum de Wyntryngam de parochia Sancti Clementis, Johannem de Tankerlay, Ricardum Kernour, Hugonem Fisscher, Johannem de Pountefreut de parochia Sancte Marie Veteris, Johannem Talbok',<sup>3</sup> Johannem Watsons, Johannem Bateman' de parochia Sancte Trinitatis, Thomam Elys, Willelmum Wallay de parochia Sancti Gregorii juratos. Dicunt super sacramentum suum quod. . . De quo quidem casu predictus Ricardus statim obiit inconfessus. Visus per predictum coronatorem.

[YORKSHIRE.<sup>4</sup>]ROTULUS ROGERI DAUTRI CORONATORIS LIBERTATIS ABBATIS  
BEATE MARIE EBOR'.

Holdernesse

Will' Bax-  
lere de  
Hornse.  
Felonia.  
Ric' Curtays  
iii' <sup>6</sup> Ric'  
Curtays

Deod' ij. d.

Inquisicio capta apud Hornesbek' coram Rogero Dautry uno <sup>5</sup> coronatorum domini regis in Holdernesse die Veneris prox' ante festum Natalis Domini anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum Anglie quadragesimo tercio super visu corporis Roberti Hunter felonice interfecti per Hornse que respondet pro quatuor villatis una cum xij. hominibus videlicet . . .<sup>7</sup> juratis. Presentant super sacramentum suum quod Willelmus Baxtere felonice interfecit prefatum Robertum Hunter de Hornse cum uno baculo precii ij. d. unde villata de Hornse respondebit, et statim post feloniam predictam sic factam predictus Willelmus Baxtere se reddidit prisone abbatis libertatis Beate Marie

<sup>1</sup> MS. *jur'*.

<sup>2</sup> Three names from each of the parishes of St. Michael, St. Mary Castlegate, and St. John at Ousebridge, together with William of Everingham, Elias Cordwainer, and

John Dandson.

<sup>3</sup> *Sic.*<sup>4</sup> Roll 223, one membrane, 43-44 Edw. III.<sup>5</sup> MS. *unius*.<sup>6</sup> Over *fil'* is the word *att'*, i.e. *attachiatus*.<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

Second, on view of the body of Nicholas Bailiff, feloniously slain, by twelve jurors of four parishes, to wit . . . The jurors present that [on the preceding Tuesday Adam, John Smith's son, killed Nicholas with a knife worth two pence, and he was arrested]. He [Adam] had no chattels. [Nicholas] was viewed by Richard of Raysebeck, the coroner.

Inquest was taken at Clementhorpe, in the suburbs of York, before Gerard of Burnby, one of the coroners of the city of York, on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist in the first year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Richard of Blencow, by twelve jurors of four parishes, to wit, Philip Fisher, John Otter, Robert of Wintringham, of the parish of St. Clement; John of Tankersley, Richard Kerner, Hugh Fisher, John of Pontefract, of the parish of St. Mary Senior; John Talbot, John Watson, John Bateman, of the parish of Holy Trinity; Thomas Ellis, William Walley, of the parish of St. Gregory (sworn). They say on their oath [that on the said Monday Richard, in jumping from his cart, broke his neck]. And by reason of this mishap he died forthwith unconfessed. He was viewed by the said coroner.

### [YORKSHIRE.]

#### ROLL OF ROGER DAUTRY, CORONER OF THE LIBERTY OF THE ABBOT OF ST. MARY'S, YORK.<sup>2</sup>

Holderness

Inquest was taken at Hornsea Beck<sup>3</sup> before Roger Dautry, one of the king's coroners in Holderness, on Friday<sup>4</sup> next before Christmas in the forty-third year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of Robert Hunter, feloniously slain, by Hornsea, which answers for four townships, together with twelve sworn men, to wit . . . They present on their oath that William Baxter feloniously slew the said Robert Hunter of Hornsea with a staff worth two pence, for which the township of Hornsea will answer, and forthwith after having thus committed the said felony the said William Baxter surrendered himself at the abbot's prison for the liberty of St. Mary's, York. [They also

<sup>1</sup> Aug. 31, 1377.

<sup>2</sup> This abbey had jurisdiction over many villages in various wapentakes. See Drake, *Eboracum*, 624-5; *Monast. Anglicanum*, iii. 529 sq. Cf. Rot Hund. i. 119-20.

<sup>3</sup> This place is not now in existence; the site is indicated on the map of the Ordnance Survey.

<sup>4</sup> Dec. 21, 1369.

Deliberacio Ebor'. . . . Venerunt per custodem dicte gaole coram Thoma de Ingelby et Thoma Lovelle justiciariis domini regis ad gaolam predictam domini regis libertatis predictae deliberandam assignatis die Jovis in tertia septimana Quadragesime anno regni regis predicti Edwardi quadragesimo sexto. Separatim allocuti qualiter se velint de premissis sibi impositis acquietare dicunt separatim quod ipsi in nullo sunt inde culpabiles et de hoc de bono et malo ponunt se super patriam. Ideo fiat inde jurata. Jur[atores] ad hoc electi, triati et jurati dicunt super sacramentum quod predictus Willelmus Baxtere in nullo est inde culpabilis de morte predicta nec ea occasione umquam se retraxit. Ideo consideratum est quod predictus Willelmus Baxter est inde quietus. Et pro eo quod idem Willelmus qui <sup>1</sup> de principali facto felonie predictae indictatus fuit dictum est predicto Ricardo quod sine die de auxilio, abbettamento et procuramento predictis eat inde sine die.

Holdernesse Inquisicio capta apud Hornsebek coram prefato Rogero coronatore  
 Infortunium die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Michaelis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum Anglie quadragesimo tercio super visu corporis Stephani Belle per infortunium interfecti per Hornse que respondet pro quatuor villatis una cum xij. hominibus videlicet . . .<sup>2</sup> juratis. Presentant super sacramentum saum quod die, anno et loco predictis sicut predictus Stephanus stetit apud Hornsebek' sub ripa aque et <sup>3</sup>  
 Deod' xx. s. quedam navicula cecidit super predictum Stephanum et fregit ejus collum et dorsum. Precium navicule xx. s. unde abbas Beate Marie Ebor' respondebit.

Holdernesse Inquisicio capta apud Hornsebek coram prefato Rogero coronatore  
 Infortunium die Martis prox' post festum Purificacionis Beate Marie Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum Anglie quadragesimo tercio super visu corporis Willelmi de Popultone per infortunium submersi per Hornsebek' que respondet pro quatuor villatis una cum xij. hominibus videlicet . . .<sup>4</sup> juratis. Presentant super sacramentum suum quod die anno et loco predictis predictus Willelmus de Popultone inventus fuit submersus set per quem vel per quos seu <sup>5</sup> quo modo penitus ignoratur.

<sup>1</sup> Sic.<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.<sup>3</sup> Sic.<sup>4</sup> Twelve names.<sup>5</sup> MS. *se*.

present that Richard, son of Richard Curteis, abetted the felony, and was sent to the same prison.] On Thursday<sup>1</sup> in the third week of Lent in the forty-sixth year of the said King Edward, they [the two prisoners] came, in charge of the warden of the said gaol, before Thomas of Ingleby and Thomas Lovell, justices of the lord king assigned to deliver the said king's gaol of the liberty aforesaid. Being separately asked how they would acquit themselves of the premises of which they are accused, they separately say that they are in no way guilty thereof, and they put themselves upon the country for good and ill. Therefore let a jury be empanelled to try them. The jurors, elected, tried,<sup>2</sup> and sworn for this purpose, declare on oath that the said William Baxter is in no way guilty of the said death, nor did he ever withdraw himself<sup>3</sup> on that account. Therefore it is considered that he go hence acquitted. And for that the said William was indicted for the principal fact of the felony, the said Richard is informed that as regards the said [charge of] aid, abetment, and procurement he may go hence without day.<sup>4</sup>

Holderness

Inquest was taken at Hornsea Beck before the said Roger the coroner on Monday<sup>5</sup> next before Michaelmas in the forty-third year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of Stephen Bell, killed by mischance, by Hornsea, which answers for four townships, together with twelve sworn men, to wit . . . They present on their oath that on the said day of the said year and at the said place, as Stephen stood beneath the wharf at Hornsea Beck, a certain little boat fell upon him and broke his neck and back. The boat was worth twenty shillings, for which the abbot of St. Mary's, York, will account.

Holderness

Inquest was taken at Hornsea Beck before the said Roger the coroner on Tuesday<sup>6</sup> next after Candlemas in the forty-third year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of William of Poppleton, drowned by mischance, by Hornsea Beck, which answers for four townships, together with twelve sworn men, to wit . . . They present on their oath that on the said day of the said year and in the said place William of Poppleton was found drowned, but by what person or persons or by what means is wholly unknown.

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 25, 1372.

<sup>2</sup> The jury was said to have been 'tried' when the challenges to the panel had been heard and disposed of by the 'triers,' who

tested the validity of the exceptions.

<sup>3</sup> He did not flee, but surrendered himself.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Britton, fol. 43 b. <sup>5</sup> Sept. 24, 1369.

<sup>6</sup> Feb. 6, 1369.

Holdernesse  
Infortunium

Inquisicio capta apud Fulforthe coram prefato Rogero coronatore die Veneris prox' ante festum Invencionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis predicti Edwardi tercii post conquestum Anglie quadragesimo quarto super visu corporis Isabelle de Popultone per infortunium submerse per Fulforth que respondet pro quatuor villatis una cum xij. hominibus videlicet . . . <sup>1</sup> juratis. Presentant super sacramentum suum quod predicta Isabella die, anno et loco predictis inventa fuit submersa, qualiter seu quo modo penitus ignoratur.

## [YORKSHIRE.<sup>2</sup>]

### ROTULUS RICARDI HAYNE CORONATORIS LIBERTATIS SANCTI LEONARDI EBOR'.

Infortunium

Heworthe, Huntyngdone, Stoktone et Cliftone una cum . . . <sup>3</sup> juratis presentant quod die Sabbati prox' post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie decimo in aqua de Fosse juxta Heworthe Rogerus de Lilling' equitavit super unum equum in aquam predictam et predictus equus <sup>4</sup> titubavit per quod dictus Rogerus cecidit in dictam aquam et sic per infortunium submersus fuit in aqua predicta. Et predictus equus <sup>4</sup> appreciatur per dictos jur[atores] ad xl. d. unde domus Sancti Leonardi Ebor' respondebit. Inventor Johannes Smythe qui committitur villatis. Visus per Ricardum Hayne coronatorem.

Deod' xl. d.

Infortunium

Acum, Knaptone, Askham et Rughforthe una cum xij. jur' scilicet . . . <sup>5</sup> juratis presentant quod die Lune prox' post festum Epiphanie Domini anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie xij. in quodam loco vocato le Pase juxta Acum Willelmus Thomsone stetit in una carecta cum quatuor equis eodem <sup>4</sup> carecte junctis, et cum fugasset dictam carectam indebite dicta carecta reversit et dictus Willelmus cecidit subtus dictam carectam et unum stoure dicte carecte percussit predictum Willelmum in ventre unde statim moriebatur. Et dictum stoure appreciatur ad unum obolum necnon dicta carecta cum predictis equis, si <sup>6</sup> forisfacta adjudicata fuerit, <sup>6</sup> ad xl. s. unde et de precio dicti stoure domus Sancti Leonardi Ebor' responde-

Deod'  
xl. s. ob.

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 243, one membrane 10-12 Rich. II.

<sup>3</sup> Twelve names. <sup>4</sup> Sic.

<sup>5</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>6-6</sup> MS. *for' adjudicat' fuerit.*



Holderness

Inquest was taken at Fulford <sup>1</sup> before the said Roger the coroner on Friday <sup>2</sup> next before the Invention of the Holy Cross in the forty-fourth year of King Edward the Third, on view of the body of Isabel of Poppleton, drowned by mischance, by Fulford, which answers for four townships, together with twelve sworn men, to wit. . . . They present on their oath that on the said day of the said year and in the said place the said Isabel was found drowned, but how or by what means is wholly unknown.

## [YORKSHIRE.]

ROLL OF RICHARD HAYNE, CORONER OF THE LIBERTY OF ST. LEONARD'S, YORK.<sup>3</sup>

Heworth, Huntington, Stockton, and Clifton together with [twelve] sworn men present that on Saturday <sup>4</sup> next after the feast of All Saints in the tenth year of King Richard the Second Roger of Lillings rode on a horse into the river Foss, and the said horse slipped, so that Roger fell into the water, and thus was drowned by misadventure. And the horse is appraised by the said jurors at forty pence, for which the house of St. Leonard's, York, will account. The finder, John Smith, is committed <sup>5</sup> to the [aforesaid] townships. [Roger] was viewed by Richard Hayne, the coroner.

Acomb, Knapton, Askham, and Rufforth together with twelve jurors, to wit . . . (sworn), present that on Monday <sup>6</sup> next after the Epiphany in the twelfth year of King Richard the Second William Thomson stood in a cart attached to four horses in a certain place called the Pass near Acomb; and, as he was negligently driving the cart, it was overturned, and William fell under it, and a stoure <sup>7</sup> of the cart struck him in the belly, causing his death forthwith. And the said stoure is appraised at a halfpenny, and the cart with the horses, if they should be adjudged forfeited, at forty shillings, for which as well as for the price of the stoure the house of St. Leonard's, York,

<sup>1</sup> There is a Fulford in the wapentake of Derwent, but not in Holderness.

<sup>2</sup> Apr. 26, 1370.

<sup>3</sup> The hospital of St. Leonard's in York. See Drake, *Eboracum*, 332; Raine, *York*, 186-190; *Monast. Anglicanum*, vi. 607.

<sup>4</sup> Nov. 3, 1386.

<sup>5</sup> See above, p. 117, note 5.

<sup>6</sup> Jan. 11, 1389.

<sup>7</sup> The stave in the side of a cart. Halliwell, *Dict.* s.v.

bit. Inventor Rogerus Day qui committitur villatis. Visus per Ricardum Hayne coronatorem.

## [YORKSHIRE.]

ROTULUS SIMONIS DE ELVYNGTONE UNIUS CORONATORUM  
COMITATUS EBOR'.

Aynsty      Ad comitatum Ebor' tentum ibidem die Lune in festo Sancti Wilfridi Episcopi anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum duodecimo venit Lecia que fuit uxor Johannis de Cawod de Tokwythe

Appellum      in pleno comitatu coram Johanne Sayville tunc vicecomite Ebor' et Simone de Elvyngtone et Johanne de More coronatoribus ejusdem comitatus et appellat Thomam Godelad de Walton de eo quod ipse die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Wilfridi Episcopi anno dicti regni regis Ricardi undecimo apud Tokwythe felonice interfecit predictum Johannem de Cawod quondam virum suum. Et hoc offert verificare per patriam. Plegii de appello Willelmus de Cawod de Biltone, Ranulphus de Cawod de Tokwythe.

Thomas  
Godelad de  
Wa.tone

Skyreyk      Ad comitatum Ebor' tentum ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Johannis Beverlaci anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti duodecimo venit Agnes que fuit uxor Johannis del Stone de Hekmondwyke in pleno comitatu coram Johanne Godard tunc vicecomite comitatus predicti, Johanne de More et Simone de Elvingtone coronatoribus ejusdem comitatus et appellat Willelmum del Hille de Hekmondwyke et Johannem del Hille fratrem ejusdem Willelmi de eo quod ipsi die Saboti<sup>3</sup> prox' post festum Ascensionis Domini anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti duodecimo apud Hekmondwyke felonice interfecerunt<sup>3</sup> et murdraverunt predictum Johannem del Stone quondam virum suum. Et hoc offert verificare per patriam. Plegii de appello Rogerus de Ledes chivaler,<sup>4</sup> Henricus Constantyne de Ledes.

Appellum

Will' del  
Hille de  
Hekmond-  
wyke,<sup>2</sup> Joh'  
del Hille  
frater ejus-  
dem Will'

Clarowe      Inquisicio capta apud Hunsyngore die Veneris prox' post festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti quarto-decimo coram Simone de Elvingtone uno coronatorum comitatus Ebor' super visum corporis Roberti filii Johannis de Hunsyngore per

<sup>1</sup> Roll 246, one membrane, 12-15 Rich II.<sup>2</sup> Sic.<sup>3</sup> Sic.<sup>4</sup> MS. Chř.

will account. The finder, Roger Day, is committed to the [aforesaid] townships. [William] was viewed by Richard Hayne, the coroner.

## [YORKSHIRE.]

## ROLL OF SIMON OF ELVINGTON, ONE OF THE CORONERS OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

Ainsty

At the county court of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>1</sup> the feast of St. Wilfrid the Bishop in the twelfth year of King Richard the Second, Letitia, formerly the wife of John of Cawood of Tockwith, comes into the full county court before John Saville, the then sheriff of Yorkshire, and Simon of Elvington and John of More, coroners of that county, and appeals Thomas Goodlad of Walton, for that on Wednesday<sup>2</sup> next after the feast of St. Wilfred the Bishop in the eleventh year of the said reign he feloniously slew the said John of Cawood, formerly her husband, at Tockwith. And she offers to prove this by the country. Pledges [for the prosecution] of the appeal: William of Cawood of Bilton and Ranulf of Cawood of Tockwith.

[Wapentake  
of] Skyrack

At the county court of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>3</sup> next after the feast of St. John of Beverley in the twelfth year of the aforesaid King Richard, Agnes, formerly the wife of John Stone of Heckmondwike, comes into the full county court before John Godard, the then sheriff of that county, and John of More and Simon of Elvington, coroners of the said county, and appeals William Hill of Heckmondwike and John Hill, William's brother, for that on Saturday<sup>4</sup> next after Ascension Day in the twelfth year of the said King Richard they feloniously slew and murdered the said John Stone, formerly her husband. And she offers to prove this by the country. Pledges [for the prosecution] of the appeal: Roger of Leeds, knight, and Henry Constantine of Leeds.

[Wapentake  
of] Claro

Inquest was taken at Hunsingore on Friday<sup>5</sup> next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the fourteenth year of the aforesaid King Richard before Simon of Elvington, one of the coroners of Yorkshire, on view of the body of Robert, son of John of Hunsingore, by four

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 12, 1388.      <sup>2</sup> Oct. 16, 1387.<sup>3</sup> May 10, 1389.

this or in the preceding date, probably in the regnal year.

<sup>4</sup> May 29, 1389; there is a mistake in<sup>5</sup> June 16, 1391.

*Infortunium* quatuor villatas videlicet Hunsyngore, Cattalle, Ribstone et Goldesburghe una cum xij. hominibus scilicet . . .<sup>1</sup> juratis. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Robertus filius Johannis de Hunsyngore qui fatuus fuit die Jovis prox' post festum Sancti Barnabe Apostoli anno regni regis supradicti quartodecimo cecidit in quendam lacum aque in campis de Hunsyngore et ibidem statim submersus fuit. Catalla ejus nulla. Visus per Simonem de Elvyngton coronatorem.

*Clar'*

Wil elmus  
Broun de  
Wethirby,  
Johannes  
Walker de  
eadem  
att'  
Johannes  
de Clif-  
ford capel-  
lanus de  
Wethirby fil'  
Willelmi de  
Clifforde,  
Magota  
Broun de  
Wethirby  
{  
" x s.  
c. s.  
x. m. " } for'

Inquisicio capta apud Wethirby coram prefato Simone coronatore comitatus predicti die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis anno regni regis predicti quintodecimo super visum corporis Walteri Forster interfecti per villatam de Wethirby que respondet per xij. ut dicit una cum xij. ejusdem ville videlicet . . .<sup>2</sup> juratis. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Willelmus Broun de Wethirby et Johannes Walker de eadem die Lune prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis anno quintodecimo supradicto apud Wethirby in aurora diei ex malicia pre-cogitata incidiaverunt predictum Walterum Forster et ipsum ibidem felonice murdraverunt et interfecerunt<sup>3</sup> cum uno baculo quem asportaverunt cum illis et cum uno baslaro precii x.s. unde Juliana que fuit uxor predicti Walteri domino regi respondebit. Et statim post murdrum et feloniam predicta facta predicti Willelmus Broun et Johannes Walker fugam fecerunt. Et catalla dicti Willelmi appreciantur per predictos juratores ad centum solidos et catalla dicti Johannis ad decem marcas unde frater Johannes de Bromstone preceptor de Ribstone et Thomas Smythe de Wethirby domino regi vel priori hospitalis Sancti Johannis Jerusalem in Anglia respondebunt, eo quod fuerunt tenentes dicti prioris et infra libertatem suam prout predicti juratores dicunt.

Item dicunt juratores predicti<sup>5</sup> Johannes de Clifford capellanus de Wethirby filius Willelmi de Clifforde et Magota Broun de Wethirby fuerunt consulentes et faventes predictis die, anno et loco ad murdrum et feloniam predicta facienda.

*Mors  
naturalis*

Inquisicio capta in castro Ebor' coram prefato Simone coronatore, etc. de visneto<sup>6</sup> castri die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis anno regni regis predicti quintodecimo super visum corporis Johannis Tope de Kelfelde prisonis domini regis per sacramentum . . .<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>3</sup> Sic.

<sup>5</sup> Supply *quod*.

<sup>6</sup> MS. either *visu* or *visñ*. The mean-

<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>4</sup> Crossed out.

ing seems to be 'in the vicinage of the castle,' which vicinage was evidently subject to the county coroner.

<sup>7</sup> Twelve names.

townships, to wit, Hunsingore, Cattal, Ribstone, and Goldsborough, together with twelve sworn men, to wit . . . And they say on their oath that on Thursday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the aforesaid year Robert, son of John of Hunsingore, who was daft, fell into a pond in the fields of Hunsingore, and was there drowned forthwith. He had no chattels. He was viewed by Simon of Elvington, the coroner.

Claro

Inquest was taken at Wetherby before the said Simon, coroner of the said county, on Tuesday<sup>1</sup> next after Michaelmas in the fifteenth year of the aforesaid king, on view of the body of Walter Forster (slain), by the township of Wetherby, which answers by twelve [jurors], so it says, together with twelve sworn men of that vill, to wit . . . And they say on their oath that at daybreak on Monday next after Michaelmas in the said fifteenth year William Brown and John Walker, both of Wetherby, with malice aforethought lay in wait for the said Walter Forster at Wetherby, and feloniously murdered and slew him there with a staff, which they carried away with them, and with a baslard<sup>2</sup> worth ten shillings, for which Juliana, the said Walter's wife, will answer to the lord king. And the said William and John fled forthwith after having committed the said murder and felony. William's chattels are appraised by the said jurors at a hundred shillings, and John's at ten marks, for which brother John of Bromston, preceptor of Ribstone,<sup>3</sup> and Thomas Smith of Wetherby will account to the king or to the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, for they [the felons] were tenants of the said prior and within his liberty, so the said jurors say.

The jurors also say that John of Clifford, chaplain of Wetherby, son of William Clifford, and Magota Brown of Wetherby instigated and favoured the commission of the said murder and felony on the said day of that year and in the said place.

Inquest was taken in the castle of York of the vicinage of the castle before the said Simon, coroner [of the county], on Wednesday<sup>4</sup> next after Michaelmas in the fifteenth year of the said king, on view of the body of John Tope of Kelfield, a prisoner of the lord king, on the oath

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 3, 1391.

<sup>2</sup> A long dagger.

<sup>3</sup> There was a Preceptory of the Knights

of St. John at Ribstone (*Monast. Anglicanum*, vi. 803).

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 4, 1391.



juratorum. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Johannes Tope, qui captus fuit et imprisonatus in gaola castri Ebor' per Willelmum de Meltone tunc vicecomitem Ebor' pro morte Johannis Shall' de Cawod per ipsum Johannem Tope ut dicitur interfecti, obiit in dicta gaola in pestilencia et non alia causa videlicet die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Michaelis anno quintodecimo supradicto. Visus et sepultus per Simonem de Elvyngtone coronatorem.

Herthill'

Appellum.  
Nich' fil'  
Joh' Nichol-  
sone de  
Haytone

Alicia que fuit uxor Henrici Marsshalle de Haytone venit in pleno comitatu Ebor' tento ibidem die Lune prox' post festum Corporis Christi anno regni regis Ricardi supradicti quintodecimo coram Radulpho de Euer tunc vicecomite Ebor', Johanne de More et Simone de Elvyngtone coronatoribus Ebor' et appellat Nicholaum filium Johannis Nicholsonsone de Haytone de eo quod ipse die Martis xij. die Junii anno regni regis Ricardi predicti xiiij. apud Haytone felonice interfecit predictum Henricum Marsshalle quondam virum suum. Et hoc offert verificare per patriam. Plegii de appello Willelmus de Fentone, Robertus de Rudstane.

## [YORKSHIRE.¹]

Mem. 1

ROTULUS AMANDI VEYLE UNIUS CORONATORUM COMITATUS EBOR'  
DE QUIBUSCUMQUE PRESENTACIONIBUS SUPER VISUM COR-  
PORUM PER IPSUM AMANDUM CAPT[IS] IN OFFICIO PREDICTO  
DE ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI POST CONQUESTUM  
ANGLIE TERCIODECIMO.

Infortunium

Deod'  
xl. d.⁴

Inquisicio capta apud Nessyngwyke die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Hillarii anno regni regis Ricardi Secundi post conquestum Anglie xij<sup>o</sup> coram Amando Veyle uno coronatorum com' Ebor' super visum corporis Johannis filii Willelmi Braken de Nessyngwyke per villatas de Nessyngwyke, Hotone, Bayntone et South Brune una cum xij. hominibus . . .<sup>2</sup> juratis. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum . . . Et equus<sup>3</sup> predictus appreciatur ad xl. d. unde Willelmus de Braken de Nessyngwyk respondebit.

¹ Roll 249, two membranes, 13-16 Rich. II.

² Twelve names.

³ Sic.

⁴ Crossed out.

of [twelve] jurors. And they say on their oath that the said John had been arrested and imprisoned in the gaol of York Castle by William of Melton, the then sheriff of Yorkshire, for the death of John Shale of Cawood, whom he had slain, so it is said; and that he died in the said gaol of the pestilence and of no other cause, to wit, on Tuesday next after Michaelmas in the aforesaid fifteenth year. He was viewed and buried by Simon of Elvington, the coroner.

[Wapentake  
of] Harthill

Alice, formerly the wife of Henry Marshall of Hayton, comes into the full county court of York held [at York] on Monday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of Corpus Christi in the fifteenth year of the said King Richard before Ralph of Eure, the then sheriff of Yorkshire, and John of More and Simon of Elvington, coroners of Yorkshire, and appeals Nicholas, son of John Nicholson of Hayton, for that on Tuesday the thirteenth day of June in the fourteenth year<sup>2</sup> of the said King Richard he feloniously slew the said Henry Marshall, formerly her husband, at Hayton. And she offers to prove this by the country. Pledges [for the prosecution] of the appeal: William of Fenton and Robert of Rudston.

### [YORKSHIRE.]

ROLL OF AMAND VEIL, ONE OF THE CORONERS OF YORKSHIRE,  
CONCERNING ALL PRESENTMENTS TAKEN BY HIM, ON VIEW  
OF BODIES, IN [EXECUTING] THE SAID OFFICE DURING THE  
THIRTEENTH YEAR OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND.

Inquest was taken at Neswick on Friday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Hilary in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second before Amand Veil, one of the coroners of Yorkshire, on view of the body of John, son of William Bracken of Neswick, by the townships of Neswick, Hutton,<sup>4</sup> Bainton, and Southburn, together with twelve sworn men [to wit . . .]. And they say on their oath [that on the preceding Thursday John fell from his horse and broke his neck]. And the horse is appraised at forty pence, for which William of Bracken of Neswick will account.

<sup>1</sup> June 17, 1392.

<sup>2</sup> 1391.

<sup>3</sup> Jan. 7, 1390.

<sup>4</sup> Hutton Cranswick.

byk'

Inquisicio capta apud Ryghtone die Mercurii prox' post festum Sancti Hillarii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie xii<sup>o</sup> coram Amando Veyle uno coronatorum com' Ebor' super visum corporis<sup>1</sup> Willelmi Hyne et Willelmi Polayne per villatas de Hunmanby, Ryghtone, Spetone et Grendall una cum xij. hominibus . . .<sup>2</sup> juratis. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod dicti Willelmus Hyne et Willelmus Polayne die Martis prox' post festum Sancti Hillarii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie xii<sup>o</sup> apud Ryghtone Clyff per infortunium noctanter in uno puteo ceciderunt et ibidem submersi sunt.

Infortunium

Mem. 2

ROTULUS WILLELMI PERCY CORONATORIS VILLE DE  
SCARDEBURGH'.

Inquisicio capta coram Willelmo Percy coronatore domini regis ville de Scardeburgh' apud Scardeburgh' in festo Sancti Thome Martiris anno regni regis Ricardi secundi quartodecimo super visu corporis Johannis Lokwodde de Hertipole per duodecim ville de Scardeburgh' scilicet . . .<sup>3</sup> juratos. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Johannes Lokwodde die Veneris prox' ante festum Circumcisionis Domini anno supradicto xiiij<sup>mo</sup> fuit in quadam navi in portu de Scardeburgh' et ibidem per infortunium cecidit de navi predicta in mare nullo ad hoc cogente nec consenciente in aliquo et sic per infortunium ibidem submersus fuit. Primus inventor dicti corporis mortui Willelmus Wrighte de Hertipole.

Infortunium

Inquisicio capta coram Johanne Seyntquyntyn chivaler<sup>4</sup> custode castri de Scardeburgh' et coram Willelmo Percy et Roberto de Rilyngtone coronatoribus ville de Scardeburgh' ad rogatum dicti Johannis in dictum castrum venientibus infra predictum castrum die Mercurii in festo Sancti Wilfridi Episcopi anno regni regis Ricardi secundi quartodecimo super visu corporis Thome atte Halle comorantis in predicto castro bedman' per xij. ville predictae scilicet . . .<sup>5</sup> juratos. Qui dicunt . . . Primus inventor corporis mortui Henricus Haget.

Infortunium

<sup>1</sup> Sic.<sup>2</sup> Twelve names.<sup>3</sup> Twelve names.<sup>4</sup> MS. *Chir.*<sup>5</sup> Twelve names.

[Wapentake  
of] Dickering

Inquest was taken at Righton on Wednesday<sup>1</sup> next after the feast of St. Hilary in the thirteenth year of King Richard the Second before Amand Veil, one of the coroners of Yorkshire, on view of the bodies of William Hyne and William Polain, by the townships of Hunmanby, Righton, Speeton, and Grindall, together with twelve sworn men [to wit . . .]. And they say on their oath that on the night of Tuesday next after the feast of St. Hilary in the said year the said William Hyne and William Polain fell by misadventure into a well at Righton Cliff, and there were drowned.

ROLL OF WILLIAM PERCY, CORONER OF THE TOWN OF  
SCARBOROUGH.

Inquest was taken at Scarborough before William Percy, the king's coroner of the town of Scarborough, on the feast<sup>2</sup> of St. Thomas the Martyr in the fourteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of John Lockwood of Hartlepool, by twelve sworn men of Scarborough, to wit . . . And they say on their oath that on Friday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord in the said fourteenth year the said John Lockwood was in a certain ship in the harbour of Scarborough, and there by misadventure he fell from the said ship into the sea, no one constraining or abetting him in any way to do this, and thus by misadventure he was there drowned. The first finder of the dead body was William Wright of Hartlepool.

Inquest was taken in the castle of Scarborough before John St. Quintin, knight, warden of the castle, and before William Percy and Robert of Rillington, coroners of the town of Scarborough, who came to the said castle at the request of the said John, on Wednesday<sup>4</sup> the feast of St. Wilfrid the Bishop in the fourteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of Thomas Hall, beadsman, who dwelt in that castle, by twelve sworn men of the said town, to wit . . . And they say [that on the said Wednesday Thomas fell into a pond,<sup>5</sup> while he was going from the castle gate to the chapel of the castle, and he was drowned]. The first finder of his dead body was Henry Haget.

<sup>1</sup> Jan. 19, 1390.

<sup>2</sup> Dec. 29, 1390.

this or in the preceding date.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 30 1390; there is a mistake in

<sup>4</sup> Oct. 12, 1390.

<sup>5</sup> *vivarium*.

. . . . .

Infortunium

Inquisicio capta apud Scardeburgh' coram prefatis coronatoribus die Veneris prox' post Octabas Sancti Michaelis anno regni regis Ricardi secundi sextodecimo super visu corporis Johannis Belle de Fyvele per xij. ville de Scardeburgh' scilicet . . .<sup>1</sup> juratos. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod die Jovis prox' post Octabas Sancti Michaelis anno sextodecimo supradicto predictus Johannes Belle noctanter fuit in predicta villa de Scardeburgh' et vellet ivisse ad navem suam infra portum de Scardeburgh' existentem de qua fuit nauta et in eundo infra portum predictum de nave ad navem versus navem suam predictam per infortunium cecidit in mare et sic per infortunium ibidem submersus fuit nullo ad hoc cogente nec procurante. Primus inventor corporis mortui Adam de Wenloke.

## [DIVERS COUNTIES.<sup>2</sup> LONDON. ESSEX.]

. . . . .

Mem. 2

### Appellum Johannis Wyger.

Idem Johannes venit coram <sup>3</sup>coronatore Lond' et vicecomitibus<sup>3</sup> et cognovit se esse latronem, etc. et appellat Ricardum Chapman manentem apud Hornedechirche et Willelmum Pygoun taverner de Lond' de quadam roberia<sup>4</sup> facta apud Blakenotle prope Chelmeresford super personam ecclesie ejusdem ville circa festum Sancti Nicholai anno regis Edwardi xx<sup>o</sup> ut de denariis, ciphis argenti et de vuitro<sup>5</sup> et aliis jocalibus et equis, etc. unde dictus Ricardus habuit ad partem suam xx. s. et dictus Willelmus xl. s. Et dicit quod tradidit dicto

<sup>1</sup> Twelve names.

<sup>2</sup> Roll 254, five membranes and two small skins, 19-21 Edward I. All the cases are appeals of approvers. On this subject see Bracton, ff. 152-154; Fleta, ff. 56, 57; Neilson, *Trial by Combat*, ch. 14. According to Bracton, the approver who confessed

his crimes before the coroner, repeated the confession and appeals before the king's justices.

<sup>3-3</sup> MS. *coron' Lond' et vic'.*

<sup>4</sup> MS. *robia* here and generally throughout the roll; in a few cases *roboria* occurs.

<sup>5</sup> This word might be read as *micro*.



[Inquest was held before the same two coroners of Scarborough on the eleventh of April, 1391, by twelve men. They say that on the ninth of April William Burgess wounded George Scrivener in a brawl. George then struck William with a dagger worth two pence, and the latter died on the following day. George fled; he had no chattels. Being asked if anyone was present and abetted the felony, the jurors say, No. The first finder of William's body was his wife Agnes.]

Inquest was taken at Scarborough before the said coroners on Friday<sup>1</sup> next after the octaves of St. Michael in the sixteenth year of King Richard the Second, on view of the body of John Bell of Filey, by twelve sworn men of Scarborough, to wit . . . And they say on their oath that on the night of Thursday next after the octaves of St. Michael in the said sixteenth year the said John Bell was in the town of Scarborough and wished to go to his ship, which was in the harbour of Scarborough, and of which he was a mariner, and in passing from ship to ship on his way to his ship he fell by misadventure into the sea, and thus was there drowned by misadventure, no one compelling or abetting the act. The first finder of the dead body was Adam of Wenlock.

## [DIVERS COUNTIES. LONDON. ESSEX.]

. . . . .

### The Appeal of John Wiger.

The said John came before the coroner of London<sup>2</sup> and the sheriffs and confessed that he was a thief, etc., and he appeals Richard Chapman, who lives at Hornchurch, and William Pidgeon, taverner, of London, for having robbed the parson of the church of Black Notley near Chelmsford, about the feast<sup>3</sup> of St. Nicholas in the twentieth year of King Edward [the First], of money, silver and glass goblets, and other jewels, and horses, etc., whereof the said Richard received as his share twenty shillings, and the said William forty shillings.

<sup>1</sup> Oct. 12, 1392.

<sup>2</sup> For the coroner's office in London, see *ante*, Introduction.

<sup>3</sup> Dec. 6, 1291.

Willelmo ij. discos argenti ad vendendum quos adhuc penes se detinet, etc. Item appellat Ricardum le Barber manentem super Cornhulle et Robertum vallettum ejusdem de roberia predicta, etc. Idem appellat Waltherum Lambyn manentem in Suthwerke de latrocinio ij. equorum baiorum furtive furatorum apud Stokes prope Guldeford per xv. dies ante Carniprivium anno xx<sup>o</sup> qui remanent penes predictum Waltherum et valebant c. s. unde predictus probator habuit ad partem suam xl. s. Idem appellat Proude Kytte manentem apud Ware de receptamento <sup>1</sup> ejusdem et sociorum suorum et latrociniorum suorum. Et dicit quod habet de eo duo tabarda de blueto, iiij. lintheamina, <sup>2</sup> ij. chalones, et de eo quod ipsa est venditrix et liberatrix latrociniorum suorum. Idem appellat Robertum Charman captum et detentum in prisona de Colecestr' de quadam roberia facta super duos mercatores apud Affebregge unde habuit xxj. s.

#### Appellum Ricardi de Scotwilleby.

Idem Ricardus venit coram <sup>3</sup> coronatore et vicecomitibus <sup>3</sup> Lond' die Veneris prox' ante festum Sancti Petri in Cathedra anno xxj<sup>o</sup> et cognovit se esse latronem et appellat Willelmum Bissshop et Ricardum Fewyth manentes apud Tychemers prope Thrapstone in comitatu Norht' et Rogerum Leneye de Wardone de comitatu Bedeford de societate et roberia facta super duos mercatores prope Bathon' venientes de nundinis Wynton' de xl. marcis et de homicidio eorundem circa festum Sancti Michaelis anno regis Edwardi xvj<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Johannes Wiger de Stepel de hundredo Daneseye captus fuit in villa de Nasinge infra libertatem de Waltham Sancte Crucis ad sectam Johannis garcionis Walteri Parcarii de Theydone pro latrocinio sibi facto, qui deductus est ad prisonam domini regis apud Waltham et ibi confessus est de multo latrocinio per ipsum et per alios facto. Et idem Johannes Wiger coram Johanne Sperleng coronatore libertatis de Waltham appellat Ricardum le Taylur qui manet juxta Billingesgate ad roberiam faciendam apud Setereshelde. Item appellat

<sup>1</sup> MS. *recept'*.

<sup>2</sup> MS. *linth'*.

<sup>3-3</sup> MS. *coron' et vic'*.

<sup>4</sup> The following three cases are on two small skins between mem. 2 and 3. The

second skin is endorsed: 'Coram justiciariis assignatis ad gaolem [sic] de Newegate deliberandam per coronator' Essex'.

And [John] says that he gave the said William two silver dishes to sell, which he still has in his possession, etc. He also appeals Richard Barber, who lives on Cornhill, and Robert, his [Richard's] varlet, of the said robbery, etc. He also appeals Walter Lambin, who lives in Southwark, of the theft of two bay horses which he furtively stole at Stoke-next-Guildford a fortnight before Lent<sup>1</sup> in the twentieth year, which are still in the said Walter's possession and which were worth a hundred shillings, whereof the said approver received forty shillings as his share. He also appeals Prude Kitt, who lives at Ware, of having harboured him and his fellows and the stolen property. And he says that she received from him two tabards of bluet,<sup>2</sup> four sheets, and two counterpanes, and [he appeals her] for that she is the seller and disposer of what he steals. He also appeals Robert Charman, who has been arrested and detained in the prison of Colchester, of having robbed two merchants at Abridge, from which robbery he [John] received twenty-one shillings.

#### The Appeal of Richard of Scot Willoughby.

The said Richard came before the coroner and sheriffs of London on Friday<sup>3</sup> next before the feast of St. Peter's Chair in the twenty-first year and confessed that he was a thief, and he appeals William Bishop and Richard Fewyth, who live at Titchmarsh near Thrapston in the county of Northampton, and Roger Leney of Warden in the county of Bedford, of having participated in robbing two merchants of forty marks near Bath, and in killing them, as they were coming from the Winchester fair about Michaelmas<sup>4</sup> in the sixteenth year of King Edward.

John Wiger of Steeple in the hundred of Dengie was arrested in the vill of Nazeing in the liberty of Waltham Holy Cross at the suit of John, the servant of Walter Parker of Theydon, for having robbed him; and he was taken to the king's prison at Waltham, where he confessed that he and others had committed much larceny. And before John Sperling, coroner of the liberty of Waltham, the said John Wiger appeals Richard Taylor, who lives near Billingsgate, of having committed a robbery at Shooter's Hill.<sup>5</sup> He also appeals Lawrence

<sup>1</sup> The first day of Lent was Feb. 12, 1292.

<sup>2</sup> A kind of woollen cloth of bluish colour. Murray's *New English Dictionary*, s. v.

<sup>3</sup> Feb. 20, 1293.

<sup>4</sup> Sept. 29, 1288.

<sup>5</sup> For *held* = hillslope, see Stratmann's *M. E. Dict.* (ed. Bradley). Cf. also *Notes and Q.*, 8th ser., vi. 68, 209, 353. It was called *Sheteresheld* as late at least as the end of the fourteenth century.

Laurencium le Taylur et Johannem le Taylur qui manent in Berchernere Lane de eadem roberia. Item appellat Ricardum le Barbur qui solebat manere sub Johanne le Bedel apud Bisshopesgate. Item appellat Hamonem Belle pheliparium et Johannem Skot pheliparium de eadem roberia. Item appellat Petrum de Watervile, Radulphum Edeline et Radulphum Sort de Bradewelle de hundredo de Danes' et Ricardum Mundekyn de Sumenistre carnificem et Johannem Corlu valettum ballivi de Danes' de roberia facta apud Bernes. Item appellat Johannem Canyng bercarium qui manet in Springefeld apud Sandforde Melne qui furati fuerunt viij. oves apud Stanweye in ovili Thome de Belhous et fuerunt simul apud Twynstede ad furtum x. ovium. Item appellat Alexandrum le Harssordede qui est garcio sumonitoris de Chelmerford de eodem furto.

J. de Stiventone coronator Essex' venit apud Haveringe atte Bore die Sancti Egidii anno regni regis Edwardi xx<sup>mo</sup> ad examinandum quosdam prisiones captos et ibidem imprisonatos per ballivos manerii et per sectam patrie videlicet Johannem Gernoun de comitatu Nortf', Ricardum Macke de comitatu Cant', Ricardum le Waleys de comitatu Cestr', qui se congnoverunt coram predicto coronatore esse latrones, depredatores, burgisores, homicidii in diversis locis et comitatibus. In primis congnoverunt de quadam burgaria et roboria<sup>1</sup> facta in villa de Berkynge ad domum Ade Swange. Postea congnoverunt se quod proposuerunt ire apud le Blakemore ad faciendum roboriam<sup>1</sup> et aliam feloniam. <sup>2</sup> De multis aliis comitatibus<sup>2</sup> et diversis locis et diversis roboriis<sup>1</sup> et homicidiis se cognoscunt esse culpabiles cum mangno gaudio<sup>3</sup> Henricus le Fletcher appellatus et Robertus Ballard de Writele . . . <sup>4</sup>.

Item Ricardus le Waleys et Ricardus Macke et Henricus le Fletcher fecerunt unam roboriam<sup>5</sup> apud Sterteford ad festum Sancti Petri Advincula, fregerunt quandam domum et asportaverunt pannos et alia bona ad valenciam v. solidorum anno regni regis Edwardi xx<sup>mo</sup>.

Memorandum quod predictus Johannes Gernoun dicit quod Wilhelmus de Blofeud frater ejus tenetur ei in xx. sol. sterlingorum et manet in comitatu Nortfolg'.

Willelmus de Andover<sup>6</sup> captus et detentus imprisonatus apud Haveringe congnovit coram Johanne de Stewyntone coronatore

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>2-2</sup> Perhaps this phrase belongs to the preceding sentence.

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps there should be a full-stop

after *gaudio*; the verb of the next sentence would then be *appellatus* [*est*].

<sup>4</sup> Nine more names.

<sup>5</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>6</sup> Reading doubtful.



Taylor and John Taylor, who live in Birchin Lane, of the same robbery. He also appeals Richard Barber, who used to live under John Bedell at Bishopsgate. He also appeals Hamon Bell, skinner, and John Scot, skinner, of the same robbery. He also appeals Peter of Waterville, Ralph Edlin, and Ralph Sort of Bradwell in the hundred of Dengie, and Richard Mundekin of Southminster, butcher, and John Corlieu, the varlet of the bailiff of Dengie, of having committed a robbery at Barnes. He also appeals John Canning, shepherd, who lives in Springfield at Sampford Mill, for that they [the appellor and the appellee] stole eight sheep at Stanway from the sheepfold of Thomas of Bellhouse, and they both took part in the theft of ten sheep at Twinstead. He also appeals Alexander le Harssordede,<sup>1</sup> the servant of the summoner of Chelmsford, of that theft.

John of Stevington,<sup>2</sup> coroner of Essex, came to Havering-atte-Bower on St. Giles's day<sup>3</sup> in the twentieth year of King Edward to examine certain prisoners, who had been arrested and confined there by the bailiffs of the manor on the suit of the country, to wit, John Gernon of Norfolk, Richard Mack of Cambridgeshire, and Richard Wallis of Cheshire, who confessed before the said coroner that they were thieves, depredators, burglars, and murderers in various places and counties. In the first place, they confessed that they had committed a certain burglary and robbery in the vill of Barking at the house of Adam Swange. Afterwards they confessed that they had planned to go to Blackmore to commit robbery and other felony. Henry Fletcher, an appellee, Robert Ballard of Writtle [and nine others] confessed with much joy that they were guilty of various robberies and homicides in divers places in many other counties.

Likewise Richard Wallis, Richard Mack, and Henry Fletcher committed a robbery at Stortford on the feast<sup>4</sup> of St. Peter's Chains in the twentieth year of King Edward: they broke into a certain house and carried away cloths and other goods worth five shillings.

Be it remembered that the aforesaid John Gernon says that William of Blofield, his brother, owes him twenty shillings sterling, and he [William] dwells in Norfolk.

William of Andover, who had been arrested and detained as a prisoner at Havering, confessed before John of Stevington, coroner of

<sup>1</sup> Probably for 'Horshorde,' horsekeeper, innkeeper; see Stratmann's *Dict.* s.v. 'horshorde.'

<sup>2</sup> See Morant, *Essex*, ii. 540.

<sup>3</sup> Sept. 1, 1292.

<sup>4</sup> Aug. 1, 1292.



Essex' esse latronem, burgisorem domorum et homicida. Et idem Willelmus appellat. . .<sup>1</sup> quod omnes isti predicti una cum eo felonice depredaverunt et occiderunt quemdam mercatorem et de bonis suis ipsum depredaverunt ad valenciam xx<sup>ti</sup> li.

Deinde alias idem malefactores depredaverunt et occiderunt v. mercatores ignotos quorum nomina non possunt inquiri qui occisi fuerunt juxta Wlmere anno regis Edwardi xvij<sup>o</sup>.

. . . . .

Mem. 4

**Appellum Thome Saundr' de <sup>2</sup> [W]okenden [in] <sup>2</sup> com' Essex.**

Die Veneris in festo Sancti Edmundi Archiepiscopi anno xix<sup>o</sup> predictus Thomas venit coram domino R. de Sandwico justiciario et Hamone Box vicecomite et cognovit se esse latronem. Et appellat Nicholaum de Hibernia de tribus equis furatis in comitatu Cantebr' prope Neuport per quindenam ante festum Sancti Michaelis anno xix<sup>o</sup> de quibus idem Nicholaus habuit ad partem suam unum equum. Idem Thomas appellat Thomam de Stanstede fratrem persone de Stansted prope Ware de societate predictae roberie predictorum equorum, etc.

s.<sup>3</sup>

Hertf'

Idem Thomas appellat Johannem le Clerke de comitatu Ebor' de quadam roberia facta apud Staundon in comitatu Hertford super quemdam hominem circa festum Sancti Mathei anno xix<sup>o</sup> ut de ij. robis de blueto precii x.s. unde dictus Johannes habuit partem suam et ipse idem Thomas habuit partem suam, etc. Idem Thomas appellat David de la Marche de eodem, etc. Idem appellat Walterum de Cokfeld de eodem, etc. Idem appellat Thomam de Galewey de eodem, etc.

s.<sup>4</sup>

Idem Thomas appellat Walterum de Berdesfeld de quadam roberia facta super Agnetem ate Berwe de Suth Wokindone in comitatu Essex' ut in pannis et aliis diversis rebus de quibus inventus fuit seisisus, etc. que remanent penes R. le Blund, et fuit roberia facta circa festum Sancti Martini anno xix<sup>o</sup>. Idem Thomas appellat Hugonem de Lattone et Editham amasiam suam de eadem roberia, etc. Idem appellat Nelewe Jakke de Esthorndone de eodem, etc. Idem appellat Ricardum de Kent de eodem, etc. Idem Thomas appellat Johannem Clericum de Sancto Albano et Hugonem le Northor' de eodem, etc.

Essex'

s.

s.<sup>5</sup>

Hertf'

<sup>1</sup> The names of twelve men from various parishes in Hampshire and Sussex.

<sup>2-2</sup> Holes in the roll.

<sup>3</sup> *suspensus*.

<sup>4</sup> Walter of Cockfield was hanged.

<sup>5</sup> Richard of Kent was hanged.

Essex, that he was a thief, a burglar of houses, and a murderer. And he appeals . . . for that all these persons together with himself feloniously robbed and killed a certain merchant, and despoiled him of his goods valued at twenty pounds.

Moreover, at another time the said evil-doers robbed and slew five unknown merchants, whose names cannot be ascertained, who were slain at Woolmer in the seventeenth year of King Edward.<sup>1</sup>

. . . . .

**The appeal of Thomas Saunders of Ockendon in Essex.**

On Friday<sup>2</sup> the feast of St. Edmund the Archbishop in the nineteenth year the said Thomas came before Sir [Ralph] of Sandwich,<sup>3</sup> the justice, and Hamon Box, the sheriff [of London], and confessed that he was a thief. And he appeals Nicholas of Ireland of having stolen three horses near Newport in Cambridgeshire a fortnight<sup>4</sup> before Michaelmas in the nineteenth year, of which the said Nicholas received one horse as his share. The said Thomas appeals Thomas of Stanstead, brother of the parson of Stanstead near Ware, of participating in the robbery of the said horses, etc.

The said Thomas appeals John Clerk of Yorkshire of having robbed a certain man at Standon in Hertfordshire about the feast<sup>5</sup> of St. Matthew in the nineteenth year, namely, of two robes of bluet worth ten shillings, whereof the said John and Thomas each received his share, etc. The said Thomas appeals David March of the same [robbery], etc. He also appeals Walter of Cockfield of the same, etc. He also appeals Thomas of Galway of the same, etc.

The said Thomas appeals Walter of Bardfield of having robbed Agnes atte Berwe of South Ockendon in Essex of cloths and divers other things, which were found in his possession, etc., and which are now in the hands of R. Blunt; and the robbery took place about the feast<sup>6</sup> of St. Martin in the nineteenth year. The said Thomas appeals Hugh of Latton and Edith, his [Hugh's] sweetheart, of the same robbery, etc. He also appeals Nelewe Jack of East Horndon of the same, etc. He also appeals Richard of Kent of the same, etc. He also appeals John Clerk of St. Albans and Hugh Northern of the same, etc.

<sup>1</sup> 1288-89.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 16, 1291.

<sup>3</sup> He was warden of London, constable of the Tower, and was frequently employed as a justice of gaol delivery and of oyer

and terminer. See Sharpe, *London*, i. 122; *Calendar of Patent Rolls* (A.D. 1281-92), 668.

<sup>4</sup> Sept. 15, 1291.      <sup>5</sup> Sept. 21, 1291.

<sup>6</sup> Nov. 11, 1291.

Idem appellat parvum Jacke manentem apud Ware, parvum Ollekyn chapman et Walterum de Cockefeud chapman conversantes in Ware et Hugonem le Northen de pannis lineis et laneis furatis apud Wokindone in comitatu Essex' ad festum Sancti Michaelis videlicet anno, etc. Et habuit partem suam, etc.

s. Die Sabbati prox' ante festum Sancte Katerine anno xx<sup>o</sup> coram R. de Sandwico et R. de Basinge justiciariis, etc. venit Johannes de Berkhamptstede et cognovit se esse latronem, etc. Et appellat Sayerum de Kaxtone de societate abcisionis bursarum in nundinis Sancti Jacobi de Redinge anno xvij<sup>o</sup> unde habuit ad partem suam v. s.

Bark' Idem Johannes appellat Willelmum Kiltegor<sup>1</sup> et Johannem de Cranfeld juxta Bedford de societate cujusdam roberie facte apud Farndone in comitatu Bark' inter Pascham et Pentecosten anno xix<sup>o</sup> ut de pannis lineis et laneos<sup>2</sup> et aliis diversis jocalibus ad valenciam x. s. unde habuit ad partem suam ij. s.

Mem. 4  
dorse

#### Appellum Willelmi de Insula probatoris.

Willelmus de Insula de comitatu Cantebr' venit coram R. de Sandwyco et R. Malet justiciariis domini regis die Sabbati prox' post festum Sancti Andree Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xx<sup>mo</sup> et cognovit se esse latronem et se fuisse ad quamdam roberiam factam super Walterum de Codestone in parochia de Weckensted die Lune prox' ante festum Sancti Edmundi Regis prox' preteritum ut de pannis lineis et laneis, equis, jocalibus et aliis bonis et catallis unde pro parte sua j. marcam, etc. Et devenit probator et appellat Thomam de Alderbecke, Alexandrum filium Alani Matfrey, Ricardum le Bonde et quemdam Petit Jak' conversantem apud Edelbrigge in comitatu Kancie<sup>3</sup> de societate<sup>3</sup> et de roberia ad domum predicti Walteri de Coddestone.

<sup>1</sup> Killegore (?)

<sup>2</sup> Sic.

<sup>3-3</sup> MS. *et soc'*.

The said Thomas appeals Little Jack, who lives at Ware, Little Ollekin, chapman, and Walter of Cockfield, chapman, who live in Ware, and Hugh Northern, of having stolen linen and woollen cloths at Ockendon in Essex at Michaelmas,<sup>1</sup> to wit, in the year, etc. And he [Thomas] received his share, etc.

On Saturday<sup>2</sup> next before the feast of St. Catherine in the twentieth year John of Berkhamptstead came before R[alph] of Sandwich and R[obert] of Basing, justices, etc., and confessed that he was a thief, etc. And he appeals Saer of Caxton of confederacy in the cutting of purses in the fair of St. James at Reading in the eighteenth year,<sup>3</sup> whereof he [John] received five shillings as his share.

The said John appeals William Killgore and John of Cranfield near Bedford of confederacy in a certain robbery at Faringdon in Berkshire between Easter and Pentecost in the nineteenth year,<sup>4</sup> namely, of linen and woollen cloths and divers jewels, worth ten shillings, whereof he received two shillings as his share.

**The appeal of William de Lisle, approver.**

William de Lisle of Cambridgeshire came before R[alph] of Sandwich and R[obert] Malet,<sup>5</sup> the king's justices, on Saturday<sup>6</sup> next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle in the twentieth year of King Edward, and confessed that he was a thief, and that he took part in robbing Walter of Codeston<sup>7</sup> in the parish of Wheathampstead<sup>8</sup> on Monday<sup>9</sup> next before the feast of St. Edmund the King last past, namely, of linen and woollen cloths, horses, jewels, and other goods and chattels, whereof [he received] one mark as his share, etc. And he turns approver, and appeals Thomas of Alderbeck, Alexander son of Alan Matfrey, Richard Bond, and a certain Little Jack, who lives at Edenbridge<sup>10</sup> in Kent, of confederacy in the robbery of the house of the said Walter of Codeston.

<sup>1</sup> Sept. 29, [1291].

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 24, 1291.      <sup>3</sup> 1289-90.

<sup>4</sup> Between April 22 and June 10, 1291.

<sup>5</sup> He was a judge of the King's Bench; his name occurs frequently in *Cal. of Patent Rolls* (A.D. 1281-92).

<sup>6</sup> Dec. 1, 1291.

<sup>7</sup> It is not clear whether Codeston is the modern Coston in Leicestershire, or

Cowsdon in Worcestershire, or Cuddesdon in Oxfordshire, or Godstone in Surrey.

<sup>8</sup> Perhaps Godstone, in Surrey, which was formerly called 'Walkensted' (Camden, *Magna Brit.* v. 415).

<sup>9</sup> Nov. 19, 1291.

<sup>10</sup> Called 'Eddelnesbrege' in *Textus Roffensis*.

**Appellum Ricardi le Bounde probatoris.**

Eodem die et anno predictus Ricardus le Bonde venit coram eisdem R. et R. et cognovit se esse latronem de latrocinio et roberia predicti Willelmi. Et devenit probator et appellat Willelmum le Straumon-gere manentem extra Aldredesgate, Willelmum Page conversantem ad quandam bracinam <sup>1</sup> citra pontem de Holeborne prope tabernam Johannis Torolde tanquam latrones et socios suos de roberia predicta facta super Walterum de Codestone.

**Appellum Alexandri Matefrey probatoris.**

Eodem die et anno predictus Alexander Matefrey venit coram eisdem R. et R. et cognovit se esse latronem dicti latrocinii et roberia <sup>2</sup> predicti Willelmi. Et devenit probator et appellat Thomam de Aldrebeke et Nicholaum de Dissceford, Henricum le Maresch', Johannem de Ely clericum, Johannem fratrem Ricardi le Bounde conversantem in Wodestrate, Johannem de Conweye conversantem in Fletestrate, Johannem de Vaut' et quemdam Haumonem le Fruter conversantem prope Garschirche tanquam latrones et socios suos de predicta roberia facta super predictum Walterum de Codestone.

<sup>1</sup> MS. *brac'*.<sup>2</sup> *Sic.*



**The appeal of Richard Bond, approver.**

On the same day of the said year the said Richard Bond came before the said R[alph] and R[obert], and confessed that he was a thief in connection with the larceny and robbery of the said William [de Lisle]. And he turns approver, and appeals William Strawmonger, who lives outside Aldersgate, and William Page, who dwells at a certain brewhouse this side of Holborn bridge near the tavern of John Thorold, as thieves and as his confederates in the aforesaid robbery committed upon Walter of Codeston.

**The appeal of Alexander Matfrey, approver.**

On the same day of the said year the said Alexander Matfrey came before the said R[alph] and R[obert], and confessed that he was a thief in connection with the larceny and robbery of the said William [de Lisle]. And he turns approver and appeals Thomas of Alderbeck, Nicholas of Ditchford, Henry Marshall, John of Ely clerk, John, Richard Bond's brother, who lives in Wood Street, John of Conway, who lives in Fleet Street, John of Walton, and a certain Hamon Fruiter, who lives near Grace Church, as thieves and as his associates in the aforesaid robbery committed upon Walter of Codeston.





## GLOSSARY.



**ageyt.** See **en ageyt.**

**alonge** (44), Engl., at a distance, afar;  
Murray, N. E. Dict., s.v. *along*.

**auricularis** (21), the little or auricular  
finger, the finger most easily inserted  
in the ear; Murray, s.v. *auricular*;  
Wright-Wülcker, Vocab. i. 632.

**blewettum, bluetum** (69, 128, 130), bluet,  
a kind of woollen cloth of bluish colour;  
Murray, s.v. *bluet*; Maitland, Sel. Pl.  
of Crown, 141.

**boscare** (10), for *bovarium*, cowhouse;  
Du Cange,<sup>1</sup> s.v. *boscar*.

**burgagium** (99), *burgage*, the aggregate  
of the *burgage-tenants*; hence the town  
community.

**burgare** (69), to break down; the more  
common meaning is that on p. 114, to  
steal from a house, to burgle, explained  
in Maitland's Sel. Pl. of Crown, 142.

**burgisor** (129, 130), for *burgator*, a bur-  
glar.

**coilun, kaylun** (19), Fr. or Engl., a flint-  
stone. Mod. Fr. *caillou*, O. Fr. *chail*  
(= *calculus*); Godefroy, s.v. *chail*.

**convillatae** (92), the neighbouring vills;  
cf. Introduction, Note B.

**debut** (59 bis), was said, was reported,  
like the German *sollen*. Cf. Bracton,  
ii. 426; Maitland, Pl. of Glouc. 154;  
Year Books, 30-31 Edw. I. 528.

**doytus, ductus** (15), a brook; cf. Rec. of  
Nottingham, i. 446. O. Fr. *doit*;  
Godefroy, s.v.

**en ageyt** (64), Fr., in await, in ambush;  
Murray, s.v. *await*; cf. Fr. *guet-apens*;  
*agwait* *purpensé* occurs in Leges Will.  
i. c. 2.

**enz de** (64), Fr., because of, on account  
of; Godefroy, s.v. *ent*.

**ertbrode** (98), Engl., the meaning is not  
clear; perhaps it is an error for *estbrode*  
or *eschbrode*, axle-pin; cf. Murray, s.v.  
*brad*.

**extupare**, Introduction, Note D., to *estop*,  
to close; O. Fr. *estoper*, *estouper*, Mod.  
Fr. *étouper*. See *obstupare*.

**fluxus ventris** (4, 80), the flux, dysentery;  
Diefenbach, s.v. *fluxus*.

**greva** (16, 18, 21, 32), the parting of the  
hair, the crown of the head; cf. Gode-  
froy, s.v. *grève*.

**haterellus** (23), the *haterel*, the neck;  
Du Cange, s.v. *hasterellus*; Stratmann,  
s.v. *haterel*; the crown of the head,  
according to Halliwell, s.v. *haterel*.

**inter canem et lupum** (1, 6, 16), twilight;  
Mod. Fr. *entre chien et loup*; Du  
Cange, s.v. *canis*.

**kaylun.** See *coilun*.

<sup>1</sup> L. Favre's edition of Du Cange's Glossarium is referred to here and throughout  
this Glossary.

- lintheamen** (107), a sheet; cf. Maitland, *Man. Pleas*, 181.
- manopius** (90), for *manoperarius*, a servant.
- mau del flaunke** (17), some kind of disease of the flank or side.
- medicus** (22), the leech-finger, the ring-finger; Wright-Wülcker, *Vocab. i.* 632; cf. Halliwell, s.v. fingers.
- mene** (71), Fr. the winding of a horn, the hue and cry; Godefroy, s.v. *menée*. Cf. Britton, fol. 20 (*menée des corns*); Rot. Hund. ii. 67 (*levavit hutesium et corn'*); Maitland, *Sel. Pl. of Crown*, 142; Pollock and Maitland, *English Law*, ii. 577 (to horn the hue).
- morbus caducus** (3, 5, 109), the falling sickness, epilepsy; Mod. Fr. *mal caduc*.
- obstupare, obstipuer** (42, 82), to stop, to close; Du Cange, s.v. *obstupare*. See *extupare*.
- ollata** (3), for *olla*, a pot.
- orbus ictus** (22), blind or bloodless blows, as opposed to wounds. See Bracton, fol. 145; Pollock and Maitland, ii. 466; Maitland, *Pleas of Glouc.* 143.
- platiper[a]** (68), the game of quoits (?).
- plumbum** (15), a leaden vessel, a caldron. O. E. a lead. Cf. Stratmann, s.v. lead; Halliwell, s.v. lead. Plumbum seems also to have this meaning in *Leges Burgorum Scot.* c. 116; Innes, *Ancient Laws of Scotl.*, 56.
- pomerius silvestris** (11), a crab-tree stick.
- ripa aquae** (121), wharf, hythe; Diefenbach, s.v. *ripa*. Cf. *Ripa Reginae*, Queen Hythe in London; Gross, *Gild Merchant*, ii. 416.
- scaldiare** (40), to scald.
- scaterizare, scaturizare** (15, 92), to scald or burn; Du Cange, s.v. *excaturizare*.
- seppitare** (Introduction, Note D), for *caespitare* (p. 42), to trip, to slip; Du Cange, s.v. *caespitare*.
- superannatus** (31), more than a year old; Du Cange, s.v.; cf. Godefroy, s.v. *souranné*.
- theol[neum]** (119), a tollbooth; cf. Gross, *Gild Merchant*, i. 81-82.
- tinellus** (15), a pole on which a tub was carried by two persons, a sow-stang, a cowl-staff; Du Cange, s.v.; Halliwell, s.v. *so* and *cowl-staff*. Cf. O. Fr. *tinel*; Godefroy, s.v.
- triare** (121), to try a jury, as explained in note 2, p. 121; *Records of Nottingham*, ii. 472.
- tripos** (16), a brandreth, a trivet fixed over the fire to hold a pot; p. 16, note 3; Wright-Wülcker, *Vocab. i.* 723; Innes, *Ancient Laws*, 56.
- velamen** (107), a curtain.
- vuitrum** (127), for *vitrum*, glass.

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# Selden Society.

FOUNDED 1887.

TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY AND ADVANCE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH LAW.

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## *The volumes already published are*

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Vol. VI., for 1892. **SELECT PLEAS OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.** Vol. I., A.D. 1390-1404 and A.D. 1527-1545. Edited by REGINALD G. MARSDEN, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law. With Facsimile of the ancient Seal of the Court of Admiralty. Crown 4to. Price to non-members, 28s.

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This volume contains those portions of Bracton's work in which he follows Azo printed in parallel columns with Azo's text. The use made by Bracton of the works of Bernard of Pavia and the canonist Tancred is also illustrated.

Vol. IX., for 1895. *SELECT CASES* from the *CORONERS' ROLLS*, A.D. 1265-1413. Edited, from the Rolls preserved in H.M. Public Record Office, by CHARLES GROSS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University. Crown 4to. Price to non-members, 28s.

The functions of the coroner were more important in this period than in modern times. The volume supplies interesting information on the history of the office of coroner, on the early development of the jury, on the jurisdiction of the hundred and county courts, on the collective responsibilities of neighbouring townships, on proof of Englishry, and on the first beginnings of elective representation.

### *The volumes in course of preparation are*

Vol. X., for 1896 (in the press). *THE EARLIEST RECORDS\** of the *EQUITABLE JURISDICTION* of the *COURT OF CHANCERY*, edited by W. PALEY BAILDON.

Of these valuable records but very few have as yet been printed. It is hoped that they will throw new light on the development of English "Equity." The petitions practically commence in the reign of King Richard II. Many relate to mercantile and shipping matters.

Vol. (ready for press). *SELECT PLEAS* of the *COURT OF ADMIRALTY*. Vol. II., A.D. 1545-1585, edited by REGINALD G. MARSDEN.

This will be in continuation and completion of Vol. VI., and will contain a further selection of interesting records and a summary of all the classes of cases dealt with by the Court during this period.

Vol. (in preparation). *SELECT PLEAS* from the *RECORDS\** of the *COURT OF REQUESTS*. Vol. I., Henry VII. and Henry VIII., edited by I. S. LEADAM.

This Court, sometimes called the "Court of Conscience," was originally a Court of Equity for poor men's causes, but later it took cognisance of all suits that by colour of equity or supplication to the Prince could be brought before it. The President of the Court was the Lord Privy Seal, who was assisted by the Masters of Requests.

### *The following are among the Works contemplated for future volumes:*

Vol. . *PLACITA FORESTAE*.

The Forest Plea Rolls\* are very interesting and little known. They begin as early as the reign of King John, and consist of perambulations, claims, presentments and other proceedings (such as trials for poaching and trespass on the Forest) before the Justices in Eyre of the Forest.

Vol. . *MEMORANDA* of the *COURT OF EXCHEQUER*, A.D. 1199-1272.

The Rolls\* of the King's Remembrancer and of the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer throw the fullest light both upon the curious and intricate system of accounting at the Royal Exchequer and the far-reaching jurisdiction of the Court, together with its relation to the Chancery and the Courts of Common Law. They deal with matters of great constitutional importance.

\* For further information on these Records, see the valuable and learned "Guide to the Principal Classes of Documents preserved in the Public Record Office," by S. R. SCARGILL-BIRD, F.S.A. (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1891.)

Vol. . SELECTIONS from the PLEA ROLLS\* of the JEWISH EXCHEQUER, A.D. 1244-1272.

These Rolls illustrate a department of the history of English law which is at present very dark. The Justiciarii Judæorum, who had the status of Barons of the Exchequer, exercised jurisdiction in all affairs relating to the Jewish community, namely, in the accounts of the revenue, in pleas upon contracts made between Jews and Christians, and in causes or questions touching their land or goods, or their tallages, fines, and forfeitures.

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Vol. . SELECT PLEAS of the COURT of STAR CHAMBER. Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

The Records\* of this Court consist of Bills, Answers, Depositions, and other proceedings. They are of great importance as illustrating both public and private history. None of the Orders or Decrees are known to exist. In the Report of a Committee of the House of Lords made in 1719, it is stated that "the last notice of them that could be got was that they were in a house in St. Bartholomew's Close, London."

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Vol. . SELECT PLEAS in MANORIAL and other SEIGNORIAL COURTS, Vol. II.

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Vol. . SELECT CIVIL PLEAS, Vol. II.

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There are several interesting sets hitherto unprinted. The mercantile transactions are very curious.

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Vol. . BREVIA PLACITATA, a book of precedents for pleading in the King's Courts, Thirteenth Century.

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Vol. . The HISTORY of the REGISTER of ORIGINAL WRITS :

The reign of Henry III.  
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The reign of Edward III.  
The Fifteenth Century.

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\* For further information on these Records, see the valuable and learned "Guide to the Principal Classes of Documents preserved in the Public Record Office," by S. R. SCARGILL-BIRD, F.S.A. (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1891.)

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The Society has also contemplated the collection of materials for an ANGLO-FRENCH DICTIONARY, for which practical instructions have been kindly drawn up by Professor Skeat. The Council will be glad to receive offers of help in this collection with a view to future publication.

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The Council will be grateful for any information upon the contents and custody of any MSS. which may be of sufficient interest to be dealt with by the Society.



# Selden Society.

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FOUNDED 1887.

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## RULES.

1. The Society shall be called the Selden Society.
2. The object of the Society shall be to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the history of English Law, especially by the publication of original documents and the reprinting or editing of works of sufficient rarity or importance.
3. Membership of the Society shall be constituted by payment of the annual subscription, or in the case of life members, of the composition. Form of application is given at the foot.
4. The annual subscription shall be £1. 1s., payable in advance on or before the 1st of January in every year. A composition of £21 shall constitute life membership from the date of the composition, and in the case of Libraries, Societies, and corporate bodies, membership for 80 years.
5. The management of the affairs and funds of the Society shall be vested in a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Council consisting of fifteen members, in addition to the *ex officio* members. The President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Literary Director, the Secretary, and the Hon. Treasurer shall be *ex officio* members. Three shall form a quorum.
6. Until the Annual General Meeting in the year 1896 the following shall be the fifteen members of the Council:—The Hon. Mr. Justice Bruce, Mr. A. M. Channell, Q.C., Sir Howard W. Elphinstone, Bart., Mr. M. Ingle Joyce, Mr. B. G. Lake, Mr. H. C. Maxwell Lyte, Mr. A. Stuart Moore, Mr. R. Pennington, Sir F. Pollock, Bart., Mr. W. C. Renshaw, Q.C., Mr. S. R. Scargill-Bird, The Hon. Mr. Justice Stirling, Mr. J. Westlake, Q.C., His Honour Judge Meadows White, the Hon. Mr. Justice Wills, five of whom (in alphabetical order) shall retire at the Annual General Meeting in the year 1896, five (in the like order) in the year 1897, and the remaining five in the year 1898. At each subsequent Annual General Meeting the five members who have served longest without re-election shall retire. A retiring member shall be re-eligible.
7. The five vacancies in the Council shall be filled up at the Annual General Meeting in and after the year 1896 in the following manner: (a) Any two Members of the Society may nominate for election any other member by a writing signed by them and the nominated member, and sent



to the Hon. Secretary on or before the 14th of February. (b) Not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting the Council shall nominate for election five members of the Society. (c) No person shall be eligible for election on the Council unless nominated under this Rule. (d) Any candidate may withdraw. (e) The names of the persons nominated shall be printed in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting. (f) If the persons nominated, and whose nomination shall not have been withdrawn, are not more than five, they shall at the Annual General Meeting be declared to have been elected. (g) If the persons nominated, and whose nomination shall not have been withdrawn, shall be more than five, an election shall take place by ballot as follows: every member of the Society present at the Meeting shall be entitled to vote by writing the names of not more than five of the candidates on a piece of paper and delivering it to the Hon. Secretary or his Deputy, at such meeting, and the five candidates who shall have a majority of votes shall be declared elected. In case of equality the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

8. The Council may fill casual vacancies happening in their number. Persons so appointed shall hold office so long as those in whose place they shall be appointed would have held office. The Council shall also have power to appoint Honorary Members of the Society.

9. The Council shall meet at least twice a year, and not less than seven days' notice of any meeting shall be sent by post to every member of the Council.

10. There shall be a Literary Director to be appointed and removable by the Council. The Council may make any arrangement for remunerating the Literary Director which they may think reasonable.

11. It shall be the duty of the Literary Director (but always subject to the control of the Council) to supervise the editing of the publications of the Society, to suggest suitable editors, and generally to advise the Council with respect to carrying the objects of the Society into effect.

12. Each member shall be entitled to one copy of every work published by the Society as for any year of his membership. No person other than an Honorary Member shall receive any such work until his subscription for the year as for which the same shall be published shall have been paid.

13. The Council shall appoint an Hon. Secretary and also an Hon. Treasurer and such other Officers as they from time to time think fit, and shall from time to time define their respective duties.

14. The funds of the Society, including the vouchers or securities for any investments, shall be kept at a Bank, to be selected by the Council, to an account in the name of the Society. Such funds or investments shall only be dealt with by a cheque or other authority signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by one of the Vice-Presidents or such other person as the Council may from time to time appoint.

15. The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Society up to the 31st of December in each year shall be audited once a year by two Auditors, to be appointed by the Society, and the report of the Auditors, with an abstract of the accounts, shall be circulated together with the notice convening the Annual Meeting.

16. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in March 1896, and thereafter in the month of March in each year. The Council may upon their own resolution and shall on the request in writing of not less than ten members call a Special General Meeting. Seven days' notice at least, specifying the object of the meeting and the time and place at which it is to be held, shall be posted to every member resident in the United Kingdom at his last known address. No member shall vote at any General Meeting whose subscription is in arrear.

17. The Hon. Secretary shall keep a Minute Book wherein shall be entered a record of the transactions, as well at Meetings of the Council as at General Meetings of the Society.

18. These rules may upon proper notice be repealed, added to, or modified from time to time at any meeting of the Society. But such repeal, addition, or modification, if not unanimously agreed to, shall require the vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at such meeting.

*March 1895.*

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I desire to become a member of the Society, and herewith send my cheque for One Guinea, the annual subscription [or £21 the life contribution] dating from the commencement of the present year. [I also desire to subscribe for the preceding years \_\_\_\_\_, and I add one guinea for each to my cheque.]

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[NOTE.—Cheques, crossed “ROBARTS & Co., a/c of the Selden Society,” should be made payable to the Honorary Treasurer, from whom forms of bankers' orders for payment of subscriptions direct to the Society's banking account can be obtained.]



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| STEVENS & HAYNES                        | Bell Yard, Temple Bar, W.C.              |
| STIRLING, The Hon. Mr. Justice          | Royal Courts of Justice, W.C.            |
| STIRLING, Hugh                          | 11 Birchin Lane, E.C.                    |
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| WALLER, W. Chapman              | Loughton, Essex.                      |
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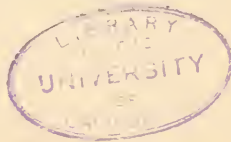
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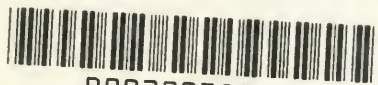
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